

WAR: Revisiting the Battlefields • NEWSPAPERS: Chain Reaction

CANADA'S

WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

# Maclean's



## Thugs — on Ice

The hockey establishment is afraid to stop the brutality—and kids are learning how to fight their way to the top

NOVEMBER 9, 1998 \$3.95



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# Maclean's

CANADA'S  
WEEKLY  
NEWSMAGAZINE

# This Week

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### Thugs on ice

Hockey has always been a fierce and violent sport, but now the risk has become all especially dangerous place.

As the injury toll mounts from fists, sticks and illegal checks, leagues at all levels are trying to restore order. But they are afraid to stop the fighting.



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### SPECIAL REPORT The lessons of war

Writer Laurion led about his age to join Canadian Forces in France in the First World War. Now 90, he tells this week what the battlefield he says Canadians should know more about.



## 18 High stakes in Quebec

Lucien Boivin calls a provincial election—as Jean Charest and his Liberal party try to lure out their campaign workers.



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### A newspaper chain reaction

Corrado Black launches a new national daily and prompts an upheaval in the news business as Toronto bids for Sun Media and its hefty tabloids.

# From The Editor

## A week of major change



**I**t was a week when Canadians witnessed historic shifts across the fault lines of the political and business establishments. It started boldly enough with the much anticipated launch of Conrad Black's new daily, the *National Post*. The ink on the analysis was barely dry when the headline writers dug deep for new metaphors to describe the surprising headline bid by Toronto Corp. for tabloid rival Sun Media Corp.—Canadian tabloidists meet the *Sunshine Girl*.

The papers already had been giving major coverage to Alberta Premier Ralph Klein's personal support for a drive to unite the Conservative and Reform parties—a move rejected by Joe Clark, the lone apparent to Jean Charest's leadership of the federal Tories. Charest, the new Quebec Liberal leader, meanwhile, was in the first week of his own campaign with Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard in an election that could set the tone in Canada for the next four years. All the while, poor Charest was digging out of his back the knife planted there by Jean Chretien in the form of ill-considered—and seemingly calculated—remarks about preserving the status quo. If Chretien was unwilling to change, Liberal Leader Charest shot back, he should resign.

At the same time, a revolution was under way in Canadian retailing. Nova Scotia's Ensign Co. Ltd. moved to take over Osherson Group Ltd., a deal that would place such brands as RGA and Procter & Gamble in the hands of Atlantic Canada's retail-ware Sobey family. Then, just four days later, Loblaws Co. Ltd. unveiled a plan to buy Quebec's largest grocery store operator, Provigo. Fully 30 per cent of Provigo is owned by the very symbol of Quebec Inc., the *caisse de dépôt*—the same cause that blocked

an attempted U.S. takeover of Provigo five years ago. Ironically, in 1993 the Quebec government rebuffed Loblaws when it tried to buy the venerable Sobeys grocery store chain—with the cause heralding a successful real bid. As it set to be undone, it week's end the cause made a central offer for Cambridge Shopping Centre Ltd., which owns 15 malls throughout Canada, including Southcentre in Calgary and Heritage in Edmonton, plus such landmark office towers as Sunways in Toronto and Osherson in Vancouver.

The first days of institutional events, while unrelated, do have some common threads. The battle between Toronto and Black is clearly ideological—Liberalism versus Reformism, interventionists versus free entrepreneurs—and of course it influences their news pages. Similar strains can be seen in the political showdown between Reform and Clark's Tories, where two fundamentally different views of the country are warring for hearts and minds.

On the other hand, commerce in Canada is moving on, following the lead of the world. Boundaries are falling. Politics has become irrelevant. Mergers and concentration go on unabated—not even emergency elections deter mergers in pursuit of broad extension, synergy and size.

The globalism seems woefully unable to bring about unity in the economy. The business community seems equally determined to buy it.

*Robert Lewis*



The Charests: a knife in the back

## Newsroom Notes:

### The Mean Season

Canada's failure to win a medal at the 1998 Winter Olympics hockey tournament sparked widespread concern in Canada about how players were being developed. But in the National Hockey League, the level of violence on ice has given rise to another—and just as profound—examination of the game. Hockey is getting more hazardous. There are more high sticks, flying elbows



Levin (left) and Deacon violence on ice

and checking from behind, and while there are fewer fights, they are more threatening to contestants. Players, in short, are getting hurt, and badly.

As Sports Editor James Deacon learned in interviews that took him from power-hockey games in Regina to the NHL's offices in Manhattan, the dangerous play—and the steps to stop it—can be found in neighborhood rinks around the country. "The boarding, the high-sticking—it all starts in minor hockey," Deacon says. "By the time they get to the pros, the players have lost respect for the safety of one another." His report, overseen by Executive Editor Bob Lewis, begins on page 68.

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Oakville college student Bryan Thompson practices

## College or university

"Why college grads get paid" was quite possibly the first work that Maclean's has ever done. (Cover/Special Issue, Oct. 26) Once Canadians accept the fact that most four-year university degrees only lead to another degree, then rampant credentialism and inflated qualifications will subside. How did we ever get to this point in the first place?

Christopher Davis  
Nelson

My own experience and the results of several studies suggest that your coverage would have been quite informative and factually accurate had you included "universities" in the title and the theme text. "Why university and college grads are paid" would have created greater balance in the implied comparison and serve to present a clearer picture of the existing and growing complementarity between universities and colleges. University graduates in the social sciences and humanities earn more and suffer less unemployment than those with technical or vocational training.

William C. Leggett  
Principal and vice-chancellor, Queen's University,  
Kingston, Ont.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

should be addressed to:  
Maclean's Magazine Letters

777 Bay St., Toronto, Ont. M5W 1A7  
Tel. (416) 596-7776

E-mail: letters@maclean.ca

Maclean's welcomes readers' notes, but letters may be edited for space and clarity. Please supply names, addresses and daytime telephone number. Subscribers may appear in Maclean's magazine notes.

Recent studies show that university graduates do find jobs. Indeed, they are particularly apt to find professional and managerial positions. They are also likely to find advancement and be promoted in ways that are not always possible for those with technical degrees. The recent developments in labor market conditions for young graduates should not be presented as an either/or proposition (technical diploma versus university degrees) because it limits the choices and options of individuals. There is a place for both types of graduates and there is certainly room for a mixture of the two. Continuing to portray universities as dinosaurs that refuse to adapt before the many internships, co-ops and relationships between individual programs and the marketplace that are spreading on campuses all over Canada.

Lawrence Robert  
Executive Director, Human Resources and Social  
Services Federation of Canada,  
Ottawa

Thank you for writing about something that truly matters to young Canadians. For years, I pointed out your university rankings trying to determine where to go to school, but when it came right down to it, I chose to go to college, much to the shock of teachers and friends alike. This decision has turned out to be one of the best I have made. In two years of college, I gained practical experience, as well as theoretical knowledge, and made enough contacts to land a job two days after completing school. I understand the problems of not having a degree, and I don't think that at one time I will return to school so that I only pursue a management position. However, the experience I am gaining now and the lack of debt compared with my friends will only benefit me in the future.

Melody Gaudet,  
Pittsford, Ont.

While there may be others putting the same claim, I would say that to ignore Ontario's Ryerson Polytechnic University and the University of Waterloo was a mistake. A hybrid institute that evolved into a university, Toronto's Ryerson continues to have more than its share of focus on practical applications rather than ivory tower academics and may indeed be the model best institutional answer to colleges and colleges should look towards as they seek answers. And in terms of turning out what business wants, Waterloo helps promote co-operative education and can claim

## Faith and skepticism

As an atheistic secular humanist, I gladly take up "A papal challenge to skeptics and agnostics" (World News, Oct. 26). Why does the Pope face ruin and faith, get caught against skepticism? Simple. Logic is merely a tool to deduce conclusions from given assumptions. If the assumptions are wrong, the conclusions will be nonsense. Sources and assumptions are the tools for testing assumptions to find out if they are true. It took the Church over 400 years to admit it was wrong about Galileo and Copernicus. The world does not have another 400 years to wait for the Catholic church to admit it is wrong about the multitude of errors it commits daily. Of course, modern science erases faith. However, it only does so when faith demands belief in that which is clearly false. Unless, and until, religions of all kinds learn to accept the real world, instead of insisting that black is white if the authorities say so, they will indeed remain in the "realm of fantasy."

Greg Ernst,  
Kaslo, B.C.

that its students are some of the most highly prized by business. I would like to read how they measure up to the other colleges and universities, how they evolved and how students and business look at them.

Noreen Goudier  
Thornhill, Ont.

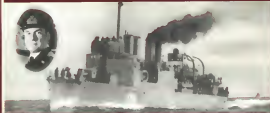
## Premium priorities

The Business Council on National Issues has not, as stated in "Capital-crashland" (Opening Notes, Oct. 26), changed its position or even shifted its emphasis on Employee Stock Ownership premiums. The council has consistently called for steady reductions in premiums, but not as a top priority. The only shift in our fiscal stance this year has been from an exclusive focus on deficit and debt reduction to the immediate priority of a two-pronged approach that also calls for broadly

## APOLOGY

In Peter C. Newman's column in the June 22, 1998, edition of Maclean's, it may have been suggested that Mr. and Mrs. David Walsh were aware of the selling of the copies of the *Black & White* at Busong. Mrs. Walsh denies that she or her late husband were aware of the selling of any copies. Maclean's accepts this statement and apologizes to them.

## WORLD TELEVISION PREMIERE



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based personal income tax cuts as quickly as the country can afford them. Finance Minister Paul Martin may agree with the priority we give to reductions in employment insurance premiums, but at the same time you may be sure—our advocacy of personal income tax cuts has nothing whatsoever to do with partisan sympathy for the minister.

*Thomas A. Syme,  
President and chief executive, Borden Group  
in Montreal, Quebec  
Ontario*

## Graduate defections

"Measuring the brain drain." (From the *Editorial*, Oct. 26) deeply disturbed me, both as a community instructor and as a Canadian. Based on a study by the C.D. Howe Institute, it revealed that 11 per cent of Canadian graduates go to the United States to pursue their careers, motivated largely by significantly higher salaries and lower taxes. The editor's solution? Canadian governments need to create more economic opportunities and above all "reduce the taxes." That surely the responsibility for this sad state of affairs lies not with governments or with Canadians collectively, but with the defunct graduate tax law. Hurray for reviving a high-quality university education, paid for largely by Canadian taxpayers, most apparently choose to repay this benevolence by selling their newfound expertise to the high oil-tender south of the border. Where in all of this is the notion of repaying our debt to society? Perhaps the more money-driven graduates of the United States are the best students for such people after all. We should not, in any case, blame ourselves.

*Dan Asanovic,  
Mississauga, Ont.*

I went to university in the United States and had a great time learning about our neighbor to the north, but I had no intention of living and working there after graduation. I wanted to come back to my country to make a contribution to my community and give back

# The Road Ahead

## Minor-league coaches are people, too

As another minor-league hockey season gets under way, let's not forget a key element in determining whether it will be enjoyable—the parent. A man head coach once observed that on any given team, one third of parents will think the coach is the greatest person on earth because he's beating their son or daughter so well, another third couldn't care less, and the final third think the coach is the next coming of Abba the Hun. Some of the types of parents associated with any team (their numbers will vary).

• The Brown Noses will be to be a coach's best buddy, offering beverages such as pop, sports beers, meals or drinks after a game. I know one parent who offered a coach a trip for two to Jamaica, unfortunately, it was accepted. In another case, an attractive mother offered sexual favors to the coaching staff if her son could play on the team, they turned her down. Supportive as long as their child gets far too time, Brown Noses can be dangerous if the coach accepts incentives but leaves the player long on the bench.

• While very supportive of the coach, the Ranters and Ravers come to the rink prepared—often more than his or her child—to do battle with the other team. Some focus on their own children, screaming at them to skate faster, hit harder, shoot higher. They openly rebuke the child, who ultimately drives him or her to the parent comes to the rink. Another kind of Ranter sits at the other end and, worse, the referees. They can get bad calls made against the team, and sometimes affect the outcome of the game.

• The Non-Committed parent comes to the

rink only because a child wants to play. These people don't want to socialize with other parents, couldn't care less whether or how well their child plays. Some NCS simply drop their child off and go for a coffee or read in the car. They'll support fund-raising, but most times would prefer to write a cheque for the total cost of their child playing hockey.

• The Back Stabbers believe they know more than the coach does. They feel their child would excel with a better coach and think their child is not being treated fairly. They will rarely confront the coach with their concerns, but once the coach is not around, the knives come out.

• Then there are the Classic Canadians. Very supportive of the team and coach, they help in fund-raising and are friendly with other parents. They work with the coaches to help develop their children—perhaps taking them to power skating or shooting classes. If they have concerns about their child's ice time, they schedule a meeting with the coach, usually after a practice. They may disagree with a coach but they will keep their comments to themselves, and they won't be attracted to the Back Stabbers. They're a coach's dream.

As the season begins, let's keep in mind the following points:

1. Minor-league coaches are not paid. If you think you can do a better job, get your coaching certificate and do it.
2. Air your complaints about the coach in private. If you still disagree, change teams.
3. Support your child, even if it's just asking for the game.

*The Road Ahead writer makes no special position in Canada's professional, amateur and recreational leagues. Published activities may not be covered in regular columns or appear on an electronic bulletin board.*

**Pete Marjica,**  
Former player and university coach,  
current hockey parent,  
Mississauga, Ont.

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## Editorial Update



### Canada on ice: 50 Years of Great Hockey

Maclean's has long covered the highs and lows of Canada's favorite game, hockey. And over the years, the magazine has assigned the country's best writers, including Brent Young, Peter Brown, and Roy MacGregor, to explore the sport, both on and off the ice. Now the best examples of hockey writing, selected from Maclean's vast archives, appear together in the new book *Canada on Ice: 50 Years of Great Hockey*.

This new collection of stories delves into the careers of hockey's greatest players—Robert Fichard, Guy Rowe, Bobby Orr, and Wayne Gretzky, to name a few—and profiles hockey's legends and colorful characters: Eddie Shuck, Derek Sanderson, Don Cherry and Allan Eagleson.

Often recounted by the very people who had a profound impact on hockey history, *Canada on Ice* also surveys the sport's defining moments, from the Stanley Cup runs of the Toronto Maple Leafs and Montreal Canadiens, to the career epos of superstars and multi-million dollar rookies.

*Canada on Ice*, published by Penguin Books Canada Limited, is now available at bookstores everywhere and retails for \$35.

## Newsstand Notes



### Web Site News

Maclean's on the World Wide Web serves up a variety of stories from the current week's issue. Our address is <http://www.macleans.ca>.

### Our internet edition also offers:

- **Maclean's Weekly Schedule** – Informative and entertaining links lead to the week's top stories, selected by Yahoo! Canada and Maclean's.
- **Maclean's Keepers** – A selection of previous stories organized to help readers follow current events.
- **University Rankings** – Our annual look at universities: plan a dynasty with links to university Web sites.
- **Maclean's Forum** – A place to speak out on issues of the day.

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to Canada. However, after four months of looking for a job with only one interview, I am ready to take all for the United States, where six of my friends have already found high-paying jobs. I still hope to live in Canada, but with \$33,000 in student loans and car payments, the United States looks very attractive right now.

B. A. Newark  
Toronto

## Fiscal champion?

For Peter C. Newman to be so glibly about Finance Minister Paul Martin's recent performance on the state of the economy and not mention the words "bottle," "unleashing," or "self-squandering" is mind-boggling. ("Paul Martin's real, revolutionary goal," *The Nation's Business*, Oct. 28). Martin's and the Liberal party's fiscal accomplishments have been on the backs of taxpayers and the provinces through reduced transfer payments—clear and simple. Nowhere does Newman mention that from 1994 to 1998 the federal debt went up another \$71.7 billion and yearly interest payments went from \$38 to \$41 billion while the fiscal conservative champion was holding back the hands of big spenders in the cabinet. All this

during a period of unprecedentedly low interest rates and a booming economy. Lead help us when the economy turns down.

Mervyn Smith  
Toronto

## Phone-scam victims

Riffing "Phone scams" (*Canada/Special Report*, Oct. 19), I sympathize very much with the victims. However, with the scars that you reported, at least they were an indication of the law and the authorities are able to take action. My husband and I have been scammed, too, losing \$1,800 to the culprits and over \$5,200 in legal costs to save ourselves from further dealings with the scammers. Just over a year ago, my husband and I went to a presentation on a vitamin club package and got hooked. We paid a \$1,285 deposit but discovered as soon as we got home that something was terribly wrong. We went back the very next morning and demanded cancellation of the deal. Of course, we didn't get anything back. When we reported this to the police, they said they could do nothing for us. Basically, what the company was engaging in was in accordance with the law. They used power-selling techniques during which there was serious mis-

representation, and we signed papers that were in total contradiction to what we were told verbally. Somehow, we did not see these deceptions—we, as two well-educated and intelligent individuals. The company had so much faith in the strength of their scam that it even said us for payment of the balance of \$5,200. We hired a lawyer to file a counterclaim, but unfortunately, we did not have the time, energy or money to keep up the fight. Our legal system does not seem to be protecting innocent, law-abiding citizens.

Kitty Leung  
Vancouver, B.C.

As much as I detest the nutritional merits that prevent action against fraudulent marketers, I find I cannot generate much sympathy for most of the victims. Greed can only explain so much; add a credibility bordering on stupidity and you realize that the reservoir of sage has only just been tapped.

Gary Proulx  
Edmonton

## Merger polls

I wish to set the record straight) with respect to "An ever-tougher sell" (*Business*, Oct. 29). It gives the clear perception that Pullman Inc. has been engaged by the Toronto Dominion Bank to measure public

opinion and advice on the proposed bank sale. Although Pullman does some polling for TD Bank, it has not conducted any polls or provided counsel on the bank merger in any way, shape or form. We have no plan to do so in the future.

Michael Menahan,  
Chairman, Pullman Inc.,  
Toronto

## 'This Canada of ours'

Your cover story regarding our dictatorial Prime Minister comes across as naive. ("For the love of power," Oct. 19). I have never understood the repeated affection for Jean Chrétien. He is what he has always been, a parasitic mediocrity. He was elected, and might be again, for precisely two reasons: he was not former prime minister Brian Mulroney and he is not Reform party leader Preston Manning. But what has happened to this Canada of ours? It is now little more than a Pseudo democracy, a business republic without the business, the province betrayed by the big corporate-political class that dominates it and by a compliant, complacent middle class. Perhaps, whatever we once dared to hope, the people are not up to the task.

John Goodchild,  
Toronto

Canadian prime ministers with a majority government and in their second or third term are famous for the stupidest we see in Chrétien. Canadians have been remarkably consistent in their response to leaders who lose touch with Canadians and start acting like autocrats. This time, though, with a fractured opposition and no viable national party on the wings, it may happen that we will end up with a three-way split in Parliament that will render any attempt at governance impossible. Maybe our southern neighbor's simple system (two parties, systematic checks and balances) has something to teach us, after all.

M. E. Lang Collins,  
Dunlop, B.C.

## Perils of aquaculture

Thank you for your insightful cover story "The dying sea" (*Cover*, Oct. 5). It provided the full context for the debate that is raging around salmon aquaculture. The salmon-farming business is about the root to the bottom both environmentally and economically, not about creating jobs in coastal communities. Recently, independent scientists report Atlantic salmon, escaped from a fish farm, have been found spawning in a wild Atlantic river—something the industry and the department of fisheries and oceans said

could never happen. This is the salmon equivalent of finding a "super-bird" into a naturally wild—decreasing disease, pollution and competition to our wild fish. There are strong economic arguments against salmon aquaculture as well. Currently, there is glut of farmed salmon, with 700,000 tonnes produced worldwide in 1997. This not only lowers the price of farmed salmon, but it also drives down the price for wild salmon, making fishermen's fish more just to stay afloat, and jeopardizing conservation. The concern about disease outbreak is real. Norway and Scotland and now New Brunswick have had crippling epidemics in their salmon farms. Our federal and provincial governments need get to place safeguards that prevent these outbreaks. This means a phased conversion to closed-loop containment systems for all salmon aquaculture operations—preventing escapes, pollution and disease transfer. But the aquaculture industry complains they are too expensive. If serious industry would prefer that taxpayers take the risk of paying millions of dollars in compensation rather than require industry to invest in preventive systems. When industry hawks that closed containment systems are not economically feasible, governments should ask: then, not economically feasible for whom?

Lynn Wolfe  
David Sandoz Foundation,  
Victoria

# Opening NOTES

Edited by TANYA DAVIES



## RIDING HIGH IN ROYAL COMPANY

James is getting the royal treatment. The seven-year-old RCMP musical ride horse was presented to Queen Elizabeth last week to celebrate the Queen's 15th anniversary. The Queen, who has been the honorary commissioner of the RCMP since 1953, appeared delighted when she checked out the guiding. If the fellows in the footsteps of the previous gift horses—Barnett in 1969 and Centinel in 1977—James might actually be blessed with a royal backside on his saddle. Crown equary Lt.-Col. Seymour G. Baird-Deakins says the plan is for Prince Charles to ride James in the next trooping the color ceremony in June.

## EMPORIUM

Percentage of Canadian children who live in a two-parent family: **89**

Percentage of children in lower-income families identified as in a family of four with an annual income of \$27,500 or less or a single-parent family with an annual income of \$19,250 or less: who have a behavioral problem: **15**

In high-income families: **9**

Percentage of children, aged 8 to 11, who had a behavioral problem in 1996: **20**  
In 1994: **10**

## GOLDFARB POLL

When 1,432 Canadians were surveyed about civilian winter sports, more people were likely to stay home and participate in indoor sports than get out in the cold and participate. By percentage of adults:

	Watch on TV	Participate in
Hockey	41	9
Ice skating	27	13
Bowling/skiing	8	7

and 100,000 Canadians in 1996

Goldfarb Foundation, 1996

## CAPITAL CONFIDENTIAL

The scent of a well-funded lobbying campaign around Parliament Hill used to be the cigar smoke and scotch fumes of the back rooms. These days, the whiff of influence speaks of a more innocent, but equally addictive, ingredient: chocolate. It lingers on the breath of MPs and their aides who were recently schooled by the Canadian Automobile Dealers Association.

CADA distributes milk-chocolate sports cars to MPs whenever it mounts one of its periodic blitzes of the Hill. The quality of the confectionary product—if it not always the policy pitch that goes with it—will be regarded on both sides of the House. In Reform finance critic Monte Solberg's office, grateful staffers admit to feasting at least as one of the ours—the taste of a chocolate—recently One Liberal MP's aide, who asked not to be named, says she put in a special request to CADA when she missed out on the most recent distribution. Not to worry "I'll somebody doing something like for us," says How Williams, CADA's top lobbyist, "we drop off a chocolate car."

Those inclined to laugh off such minor favors might consider CADA's track record. On its top priority—keeping the ban on the auto-lending business—the association has repeatedly won its long-held campaign against reform, the banking lobby. Lately, CADA has shifted into high gear to make sure that if the big banks are denied the right to merge, the government will not lose them out on leasing as a consolation prize. Working to prevent that outcome should keep the auto-savvy line at CADA's margins. On occasion Chocolate of Orleans, Ont., says we'll see 1999.



## DOUBLE TAKE

### Martha and the Muffins

Martha Johnson and Mark Goss are used to strange responses when people hear the name of their band. "If people don't know the music of Martha and the Muffins," exclaims lead singer Johnson. "They usually just giggle or stare." But for a multitude of fans, the name reminds them of a Toronto-based group that helped put New Wave music on the map in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Created in 1977, the Muffins had a big three years later when their first single, *Rock Around*, went Top 10 around the world. "Our quick rise to fame was like a comet," says Johnson. Goss, now married to Johnson, 47, "And unfortunately, it was at that point that the group started to fall apart." The five-member band recorded three more albums and won a Juno before splitting up in 1984. Johnson and Goss continued on as a duo and changed their name to M+M. "That was my idea because I didn't want to be called 'The Muffins,'" says Goss. "But the fan-generated old name so we went back to it." The two



Johnson with Goss now, in 1981 (left), New Wave albums

released four CDs, which had critical but not commercial success. When Johnson was pregnant with their daughter Eve, now 6, she recorded a children's album *The CD, Songs from the Tree House*, was her new audience and married Johnson. The couple, who live in Toronto, is now trying to re-release the Muffins, and has just released a retrospective CD, *Three Albums*. "Fans were always asking when we were coming out with a retrospective," says Goss. "Now, we are getting emails from Thailand, Holland, Russia, saying we put these songs on and not others. It's good to see the fans are still so fond."

TANYA DAVIES

## POP MOVIES

### Revisiting Oz

Almost 60 years after its original release, *The Wizard of Oz* is back on the big screen. The classic movie of Dorothy Gump, released with the big Oz, takes a trip into the rainbow was considered a technical marvel in 1939 for the way it combined color and black-and-white film. The 1996 version has been digitally restored and the sound remastered.

Box office in Canada until opening to wide release	1. <i>Practical Magic</i> (1995-96)	\$1,250,000
during the week that first weekend (Oct. 25)	2. <i>Selma</i> (1997-98)	\$1,011,200
(in brackets, number of screens/weeks)	3. <i>Practical Magic</i> (1995-96)	\$1,000,000
opening 1	4. <i>Mr. Smith Goes to Washington</i> (1939-40)	\$942,000
opening 2	5. <i>Mr. Smith Goes to Washington</i> (1939-40)	\$942,000
opening 3	6. <i>Mr. Smith Goes to Washington</i> (1939-40)	\$942,000
opening 4	7. <i>Mr. Smith Goes to Washington</i> (1939-40)	\$942,000
opening 5	8. <i>Mr. Smith Goes to Washington</i> (1939-40)	\$942,000
opening 6	9. <i>Mr. Smith Goes to Washington</i> (1939-40)	\$942,000
opening 7	10. <i>Mr. Smith Goes to Washington</i> (1939-40)	\$942,000

## BEST-SELLERS

### FICITION

1. *The Love of a Good Woman* (1996-97)
2. *The Englishman's Boy* (1996-97)
3. *Alice in the Snow* (1996-97)
4. *The White Horse* (1996-97)
5. *I Know This Much Is True* (1996-97)
6. *Big Fish* (1996-97)
7. *The Englishman's Boy* (1996-97)
8. *The Englishman's Boy* (1996-97)
9. *The Englishman's Boy* (1996-97)
10. *The Englishman's Boy* (1996-97)

### NONFICTION

1. *The Bible* (1996-97)
2. *The Englishman's Boy* (1996-97)
3. *The Englishman's Boy* (1996-97)
4. *The Englishman's Boy* (1996-97)
5. *The Englishman's Boy* (1996-97)
6. *The Englishman's Boy* (1996-97)
7. *The Englishman's Boy* (1996-97)
8. *The Englishman's Boy* (1996-97)
9. *The Englishman's Boy* (1996-97)
10. *The Englishman's Boy* (1996-97)

## The continuing saga of Charles

Just in time for his 50th birthday on Nov. 14 comes *Charles at Fifty* (Harvard House). The third biography of the prince by Brian Ibbotson, Anthony Holden. Opening with Charles' exorcism that his former wife, Diana, has been killed, Holden reveals a man facing it, his life close, his throne, his life close, or the throne.



# Passages

**DIED:** British poet laureate Ted Hughes, 58, of cancer, in a London hospital. Hughes is known as much for his stormy marriage to the American poet Sylvia Plath—who killed herself in 1963, a year after they separated—as he is for his symbolic poetry. Born in Yorkshire, England, he served as a radio technician for two years with the Royal Air Force before going to Cambridge University. It was there that his poetry started to gain attention and that he met Plath. They married in 1962, but Hughes left her six years later for another woman. Over the years, with collections such as *Grass* (1970) and *Season Songs* (1975), he gained a reputation as the leading poet of his generation. His last work, *Birthday Letters*, released earlier this year, contains about 80 poems dealing with Plath and their relationship.

**DIED:** Former president of Barmack Gold Corp. Bob Smith, 69, after complications following lung surgery in Toronto. Smith held the Barmack top spot from 1937 to 1996.

**ELECTED:** The first openly gay mayor of a major Canadian city, Glen Murray, 41, in Winnipeg. Murray, a veteran of city council, won with a 10,000-vote margin over his nearest opponent, Peter Krawinkel. Murray's sexual orientation never became an issue during the race.

**DIED:** British grocery-store tycoon Lord Sainsbury, 96, in London. Sainsbury's supermarket chain is the country's retail food industry after he took over the family chain in 1958.

**AWARDED:** The \$100,000 Manning Innovation Professor Award, for Canada's top innovators in the areas of science, technology, business and industry, to Sir James Clerk Maxwell, a professor of engineering at Simon Fraser University, won for the adaptive digital production, which increases the capacity of digital communications systems to transmit data.



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# Anthony Wilson-Smith

## When journalists become players

In his 1982 memoir *The Right Place at the Right Time*, Canadian-born journalist Robert MacNeil wrote that he was "unbeliever" about his profession because of the "extreme pleasure in the job it offered (but) growing doubts about how it is practiced." Journalists, he said, possess "a licence to ask virtually any human being almost anything. You have a licence to penetrate and intrude in the private lives and minds of all the people on earth. You have a lifelong excuse to be a sidewalk superintendent, watching human beings work."

Those are wonderful things for journalists—except when someone else plays sidewalk superintendent, and the protesters start firing rude questions about his goals and methods. This has happened in the case of Terry Milewski, the CBC television reporter whose accounts of the crackdown on protesters in the 1997 Asian Pacific Economic Co-operation summit have provoked Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's government with some of its most embarrassing moments.

Last month, while an RCMP inquiry was assembling documents related to the incident, copies of e-mails that Milewski sent to a protest were made public. In them, he referred to the government as "The Forces of Darkness," and appeared to have offered protesters advice on strategy. Since these revelations, Milewski and the CBC "mutually agreed," says a CBC spokesperson, that he withdraw from covering the story. Peter Donolo, Chrétien's communications director, wrote in a complaint to the CBC's ombudsman, David Brian, that the CBC followed a "specious and unconvincing agenda." Three network officials co-wrote a response denying the charge.

The events raise questions about the behavior of Milewski and his employers at the CBC—and about the appropriateness of some common practices in journalism. Many journalists see little wrong with what Milewski did, other than that he put his thoughts in writing. If Milewski used a derogatory term to describe the government, well, many reporters do likewise. Showing sympathy to a source may make him more cooperative. And some journalists say there are precedents for Milewski's alleged aid to protesters. There is an old practice on Parliament Hill by which journalists with dissenting information about the government use opposition MPs as a conduit; they leak their information so that the issue is raised during Question Period, which gives the story greater impact.

The fact that these examples exist does not necessarily make them acceptable. For people suspicious of journalists, the Milewski incident will make them suspicious of all coverage of the APEC inquiry. That is a question of perception; there, there is reality. Did Milewski take sides? That is what the CBC must decide. But a related question is whether CBC officials are impartial when it comes

to judging their own coverage, and the behavior of their own people.

On that score, the CBC—one of the few news organizations with a formal mechanism to investigate complaints about coverage—has so far come up short in several ways. One is the manner in which the network announced Milewski's withdrawal from coverage. That was revealed on Oct. 15 on *The National* in a seven-second announcement by anchorwoman Peter Mansbridge. Mansbridge mentioned that Milewski "was recently confronted with a *Globe and Mail*," but did not disclose the tone or content of Milewski's e-mails. And Mansbridge effectively switched hats in mid-broadcast from being a neutral newscaster of other stories to CBC spokesman for a story in which the network is directly involved. It would have been preferable for a senior CBC news executive to appear and explain the announcement. Anyone who watched only that announcement could not have understood the controversy. (The CBC aired more coverage on following nights, including comments by network vice-president Jan Hynd.)

Then, there is the manner in which CBC officials responded to Donolo. Three days after his complaint, they sent a lengthy letter in which they cheerfully picked his criticisms—responding to relatively minor ones, such as stating that the letter, co-written by Kelly Crockett, executive producer of *The National*, Bob Culbert, executive director of news and current affairs, and Sandy McKinnon, head of TV News, bypassed the key accusation that Milewski demonstrated bias by providing advice to the protesters. That did not stop the co-writers from writing that "the facts as we know them... have not been challenged" and "our broadcast have been fair, accurate and as close to the truth... as any journalistic organization can come."

Experienced journalists know that what is left out of a story is as important as what is put in—and the way in which facts are told matters as much as the facts themselves. The CBC response was written before the investigation of Milewski's behavior was finished. With that exception, the CBC was in no position to draw sweeping conclusions about fairness. The CBC has, in essence, argued that the motives of the journalists covering the APEC inquiry do not matter, because it is the overall coverage that counts. But by that same logic, there would be no need for an APEC inquiry at all: the government's treatment of protesters is a matter of public record, so why bother about who ordered it and why?

All employees appreciate an organism that stands behind them in tough times. Reporters are no different. But journalists should be subject to the same rules they apply to others. The question for CBC officials is which comes first, the interests of their own people—or of their viewing public?

In the APEC affair, the CBC is putting the interests of its own employees before those of the viewing public

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# HIGH STAKES IN QUEBEC

BY BRENDA BRANSWELL

**H**e never thought it would be easy. A feisty Quebec Liberal Leader Jean Charest readily conceded that much last week during his party's shaky run-up to the provincial election campaign. By Wednesday, when Premier Lucien Bouchard announced the Nov. 30 vote, Charest had spent days in a defensive mode, cut off at the knees by Ottawa on the constitutional issue, his party sagging in the polls. But hours after the election call, the former federal Conservative leader turned back as firms doing what he does best—campaigning. Addressing party supporters at a packed suburban Montreal hall, he kicked off the Liberals' campaign by mocking the Parti Québécois government's slogan—"I have confidence in a Bouchard government." Drawing laughs, Charest attacked the PQ's handling of the economy and health care, as well as the party's ambiguous referendum stance, punctuating his battle with a surdonic grin at the quiet. "Trust me," invoking the spirit of the Quiet Revolution, which modernized the province during the 1960s, Charest declared. "In telling you that these years must return, that we can do things differently—we can get out of the better path."

Change versus the status quo. That is how the Liberals want to cast the choice facing Quebecers. With a bold economic platform that positions the party to the right, and a promise to improve the beleaguered health-care system, the Liberals are trying to present themselves as the force needed to push Quebec out of its economic malaise. But they face a tough battle getting that message across. And it was all but lost on the eve of the election call after the referendum urged by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien in an interview published on Oct. 24 by *Le Press*. Chrétien informed Charest's Liberals by telling the Montreal newspaper that Quebec's traditional demands had been met and that the Constitution is not "a general issue."

The string of the comments, which brought a gleeful reaction from Bouchard, sparked an uproar in Ottawa and prompted widespread speculation about Charest's motives. According to some observers, Charest may want the PQ to win the election—the assumption that Charest will never be strong enough to win a subsequent referendum. A victorious Charest, on the other hand, would be in a position to demand desincorporating changes to the Canadian federation. "That's totally false," said Peter Donolo, Charest's communications director. "There is no reason that we want Bouchard taking his wrecking ball to Canada any longer; when we could have someone instead who believes in Canada."

Some Chrétien advisers privately acknowledged that the statements had been a political error. Officials were divided as to whether to greet *Le Press* the interview and in the end decided, as Donolo says, to "honor a commitment" made previously. Whatever the

rationale, the fallout forced the Quebec Liberals on the defensive before they even left the gate, depriving them—at least temporarily—of a tactical advantage. Charest was poised to seize on Quebecers' referendum fatigue and to score points over the PQ's fuzzy referendum policy (Bouchard has promised to hold another vote but only if "winning conditions" exist). Instead, he found himself responding to Chrétien's masterful "the hand-punch up," complained one angry Charest adviser last week. "When Quebecers hear this horrible stuff from Chrétien, it drives them to Bouchard."

Predictably, the premier pounced on Chrétien's campaign as proof that there is no hope for constitutional change. He also continued trying to position himself as the best defender of Quebec's interests. Perhaps emboldened by the tension in the federalist camp, Bouchard delivered a referendum-style speech pitching sovereignty on the second day of the campaign. At the same time, Charest also heightened his tone, suggesting that Chrétien should consider ending if he believes "the insurmountable obstacle" to change in the federation. Robert Bernier, a professor of social and political

marketing at the school of public administration of the Université du Québec à Montréal, says it is too early to judge whether Charest scored points with soft nationalists. Still, according to Bernier, Charest firmly staked out new territory by saying, "I'm here to represent Quebecers and nobody will stand in front of me."

Charest's Liberals, who currently hold 45 seats in the national assembly compared with 34 for the PQ, were on the defensive on other fronts as well. Their economic platform attracts the party name to the right by calling for \$2.5 billion in tax cuts and a reduced role for the state in the province's economy. Although some pundits have praised the Liberals, they also call it a risky move. "There's not a critical mass of right-wing people in Quebec," contends Jean Lapierre, the head of a popular Montreal radio show. "That's why it's a big gamble." Charest had predicted that the platform would prompt a strong reaction—and he wasn't mistaken. The PQ couldn't so blunt the proposals, likening them to the model adopted by Ontario's Conservative Premier Mike Harris. In one speech, Bouchard and the Liberal platform would mean "a complete freeze

on companies in Quebec," and referred to Harris and Ontario more than 40 times in an attempt to position the PQ as a kinder, gentler party—despite the government's years of steep deficit slashing.

Publicly, Liberals remain upbeat about their prospects. Marc-Alexis Blanchard, the head of the Liberals' policy commission, minimizes that explaining the new policy to voters is a challenge the Liberals can meet, and that Charest is the right person to do it. "What we say that a family that earns \$50,000 pays about \$1,156 more tax than in Ontario, that's very concrete for average families," said Blanchard. But one Liberal MNA acknowledged that the Harris label hurts. And the difficult sales job is exacerbated by the brief campaign—at 35 days the shortest in Quebec history. "Charest must try to sell his platform in a very short period of time," says Bernier. "And until now he hasn't succeeded." Bernier, who has conducted several studies in the past two years for the federal government on Quebecers' attitudes, contends that many voters are open to Charest's ideas. But, he adds, "They aren't ready to cross the bridge because up until now the platform hasn't been well explained."

A poll by Montreal-based GROP Inc., released last week, did not offer much encouragement for the Liberals. It showed a continuing slide in support for the party and a drop in Charest's personal popularity—only 29 per cent of respondents picked him as the best leader for the province, compared with 41 per cent for Bouchard. "It's as if he hasn't proved himself yet—and he doesn't have a lot of time to do that," says Claude Gauthier, vice-president of GROP. According to Gauthier, the poll numbers—45 per cent for the Liberals compared with 44 per cent for PQ—would spell a PQ victory because the party's support is more evenly spread out across the province than that of the Liberals. (A second poll, conducted by Léger & Léger after the election call on the weekend, showed the PQ with a slight lead, 47.3 per cent compared with 48.2 per cent for the Liberals.)

Other observers say there are issues the Liberals can capitalize on. According to Christian Bouchard, a senior research director at the Angus Reid Group Inc. in Montreal, many undecided voters are women over the age of 40. "The key for Charest is to hammer on health care because these are the exact same people who are most critical on that issue," says Bourque. In fact, the Liberals have attacked the PQ for months over their \$1.7 billion in cuts to the system—and repeated last week, that health care is a top priority. Whether that will be enough to help dispel the cynicism portends the PQ is trying to paint of the Liberals' platform is open to question. Charest and Bouchard have already out the election as the most important political battle of their lives. Both know that the short campaign will only heighten the tension. "It will put all the emphasis on the leaders," predicts Bourque. It also leaves virtually no room for error, as for Liberals try to iron out the wrinkles in their campaign to unseat the incumbent PQ—and its popular premier. □



The Liberals' Jean Charest puts his political future on the line

Lucien Bouchard and the PQ launch an appeal to the heart

# Divided over unity

Reformers want to tango, but will the Tories dance?

BY JOHN GEDDES

The young turks of Canada's political right are trying hard not to glom. As they watch the Progressive Conservative leadership race slipping towards an uninspiring conclusion, they are privately congratulating themselves for turning away from the old federal party years ago. From their jobs in provincial Conservative governments or with the federal party, their attention is focused these days on the "united alternative" effort to forge a new right-of-centre coalition—not on Joe Clark's return to the helm of the federal Tories. Still, the new generation has too much political savvy to publicly mock an elder statesman. Some outside observers felt no need to be so polite about the former prime minister's prospects. "Beyond being a nostalgia candidate, I don't understand the electoral appeal of this particular product," scoffed Darrell Bricker, executive vice-president of the polling firm Angus Reid Group.

The united-alternative machine was moving loudly last week, frustrated to discover at the last gathering of the Tory leadership campaign. Conservatives and Reformers alike were excited by Alberta Premier Ralph Klein's announcement that he will attend next February's anti-the-right convention in Ottawa. Clark, meanwhile, was left struggling to hold the waning interest of his supporters until an anticlimactic run-all vote, scheduled for Nov. 14, for the leadership that he came within a hair of winning on the first ballot on Oct. 24. One by one, his main adversaries have dropped out—all except anti-free-trade crusader David Orchard. With no realistic chance of winning, but nothing to lose, Orchard vowed to stick it out to the bitter end—to Clark's dismay.

The organizers behind the united-alternative movement looked on with barely contained glee. "A lot of people have been standing on the sidelines waiting to see how the Tory leadership turned out," said Reform MP Jason Kenney, a 30-year-old key organizer of the drive to bring right-of-centre political forces into a new configuration to challenge the federal



Meaning: a united-alternative proposal that is making headway

# Jazz Club



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liberals. "Now, there are going to be a lot more reasonably prompt people coming forward in the next few days and weeks to continue our process."

Clark's decision to throw his considerable weight behind the new movement gave Keeney broad credibility. For Clark, the prospect of a successful establishment Tories following the Alberta precedent onto the united-alternative landscape must be deeply dispiriting. Macdon's has learned that among the respected Conservatives being courted actively by Keeney and his fellow organizers a Manitoba Justice Minister Eric Toews. Giving Toews's support would be significant, since the government of Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon is viewed as moderate and cautious—a Conservative outpost wary of the Reform-led united-alternative drive. Filmon himself is unlikely to participate. Neither, for that matter, is Ontario's Tory Premier Mike Harris, who is being careful to avoid alienating longtime Tories in the run-up to a provincial election anticipated sometime next year.

But the fact that Harris and Filmon are not personally following Clark's lead will be little solace to Clark. Already, up-and-coming Alberta Tories figure prominently among anti-establishment aspirants. If one or more 12-man legislatures also sign on, organizers will be able to claim solid support from the three

provincial Conservative regimes. "We've reached critical mass, and it's going to continue growing," says Tony Clement, 31, Ontario's transportation minister and a leading member of the united-alternative steering committee. Clark apparently senses the same momentum—and made a tentative bid to stop it from building. He held out hope last week of his own bid to lure back disillusioned realistic conservatives to the federal Tory fold—a sort of alternative to the united alternative. But the former prime minister offered no details, pleading at a news conference for time to conclude the drawn-out leadership campaign.

Many observers question whether Clark's camp has the energy to master a credible anti-establishment movement. The united-alternative campaign, launched by Reform leader Preston Manning last May, has been plagued in its early days by opposition by many younger right-wingers—like Keeney and Clement. They launched onto conservatives more than a decade ago, inspired by the ascendancy



Clark, an old Conservative warrior, loses off against an inveterate in the Tory party

## LIMPING TOWARDS A CONCLUSION

Had the Progressive Conservatives chosen to hold an old-style convention to choose their new leader, the withdrawal of Brian Pallister and Hugh Segal from the race might have had some drama. This great push across a muddy conference floor through a mob of delegates and reporters, the climb into the front-runner's box for an embrace, then fish poaching the air to mark the new alliance. There was none of that last week when Segal and Pallister called their withdrawal. At 2,000 a day and a day apart to declare they were withdrawing from the second ballot of this Tory race. "It certainly looks that kind of intensity," said Segal, who was nonetheless visibly emotional as he walked down Parliament Hill with his wife, Donna, after making his announcement. Segal said he saw no way of overcoming Sir Clark's 30-point first ballot lead short of having his campaign into a negative attack on Clark's character. And, said Segal in his gracious withdrawal, "I can't recall a Conservative race that was less nasty and less divisive. There will be two candidates on the second ballot. And I will vote for the Conservative."

That, of course, meant Sir Clark. The Tory contest has come to this: the old warrior against David Orchard, the seemingly fearless Saskatchewan farmer who placed a fourth third on Oct. 24's first ballot. Or-

chard used the campaign as a platform to argue that the Free Trade Agreement struck by the Tories themselves in the 1980s is a sellout of Canadian values and sovereignty. His words left most Tories puzzled over what he was doing at their dinner—and wishing he would just go away, sparing them the nuisance, expense and embarrassment of holding a second ballot on Nov. 14.

Orchard was having none of it, and vowed to fight until the end. (He is such an interloper in the party that the Clark camp did not even know who to call on the other side to use if Orchard might withdraw.) Clark's victory is not really in doubt. In a contest where each of the 301 federal ridings carries equal weight, Orchard has no organization at all in about a third of them. That puts Clark within reach of victory almost by default, though

his organizers will still have to get their votes out to the polls on Nov. 14. Given the foregone conclusion, they may find party members less than thrilled at going through the exercise again.

Clark, meanwhile, faces a tough short-term agenda. There is, of course, the anti-thought threat from Reform's Preston Manning. Fund-raising begins immediately to tackle the party's \$10-million debt. He must find a way to ease interim leader Elus Weyne out of the limelight she so obviously enjoys but was not cut out for. Above all, he must start to show Canadians why he felt compelled to come back into their lives and demand their attention. After that is, he has seen cases of that troublesome little matter of David Orchard.

BRUCE WALLACE in Ottawa

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of U.S. President Ronald Reagan and British prime minister Margaret Thatcher, and are now rising to prominence. "There is a group of people who came through computer Tory clubs in the early 1980s who are now leading the united-alternative charge," says Bricker. By contrast, Bricker—himself a former federal Conservative research director—dismisses the leadership campaigns of Clark and his closest rival, Hugh Segal, as having been controlled by old party pros. "People who have old scores to settle or careers to maintain are still the dominant elements in the federal Conservative party," he adds.

Kenney and Clement epitomize the united-alternative mind-set—and age group. Kenney got his taste for politics as a teenager in the Liberal party's youth wing at a private school in Victoria. But he converted to U.S. style neo-conservatism after he enrolled in 1987 at the University of California at San Francisco, influenced by, among other things, his roommate's back issues of the staunchly right-wing *National Review*. He came back to Canada, gaining national attention in 1995 by leading the Canadian Teenagers Federation, then running successfully as a Reformist in the 1997 federal election. A few years before Kenney's conversion, Clement was part of a wave of rising radical-wingers who challenged the University of Toronto's previously dominant left-of-centre bent. "There was Thatcherism and Reaganism and neoconservatism," he remembers of his university days. "The status quo was Liberalism. We were the true rebels, challenging from the right."

Conservatives who came of age along with Kenney and Clement made their marks in the rise of the Reform party on the federal scene and in the provincial Tory regimes of Klein and Harris. But as their fervent broad of politics a prescription for Canada-wide success under the united-alternative banner? Last week, Hugh Segal, in announcing his withdrawal from the second stage of the Conservative leadership race, rejected the united-alternative—with a warning for Tories who might be tempted onto a hard-right ideological path. "If you get all the right-wing voters of the country to vote together, you get to form a pleasant little third-place party," the longtime Tory strategist said. He called for Conservatives to reach out instead to centrists, women and Quebecers from a moderate, centre-right position. "And I want to be as close as I can," Segal added. "Any coalition centered around Preston Manning cannot meet any of those goals."

United-alternative proponents insist they are not rigidly ideological. They also deny that Manning is being set up as the true stable leader of any new right-wing movement that could emerge from February's convention. "This is not a process that we can control,"

says Rick Anderson, a senior Manning adviser and a member of the united-alternative steering committee. In fact, he argues that losing control is the whole point—that while the united-alternative proposal originates with Reformers, it will only succeed if the February convention comes to be seen as something more than the initiative of a single party.

It is electoral strategy, not policy or ideology, that most motivates the united-alternative campaigners. "We could have a scoreless tie between Tories and Reformers for 30 years and keep on giving the game to the Liberals," Clement says. "We spent the 1997 federal election treating each other's brains out and look what happened. The Liberals lost four per cent of the popular vote, compared with 1993, and still held on to their majority." But he insists the united-alternative can amount to more than an expedient vehicle for fighting the next election. "Power is very interesting, but if you don't know what to do with it once you have it, you're no better than the Liberals," Clement adds.

United-alternative organizers say that, once in power, they would pursue four main policy thrusts: fiscal responsibility, in the form of lower taxes and paying down federal debt; social responsibility, including anti-crime policies and pro-family measures like better tax treatment for day-care centres; democratic reforms, such as giving ordinary MPs more power, and rebalancing federalism, largely in the direction of increasing provincial powers. The question is whether these ideas, rooted in conservative values, can be packaged as a winning election platform. "I believe there's a generation emerging here of small-c conservative people who are savvy in the ways of getting elected, without losing their principles," Anderson says.

Yet Segal's warning against swerving too hard to the right must be taken seriously. In Europe, the so-called New Middle politicians, from Britain's Tony Blair to Germany's Gerhard Schröder, have shown how to achieve electoral victory by straddling fiscal discipline and social consciousness. "That's a great place to be," Bricker says. Could Finance Minister Paul Martin be staking out that turf in Canada? Widely expected to lead the Liberals into the next election, Martin seems to be moving to soften his deficit-busting image by restoring some health-care spending in his next budget. United-alternative organizers acknowledge that the federal finance minister is a formidable political threat. "His political leadership is all the more reason for there to be a new alternative," says Clement. It is that future election battle, not this season's polite jostling with Joe Clark, that has the young true believers of the Canadian right hoping that a new vehicle for their ambitions is about to be born. □

## Younger conservatives are leading the unity charge



Clement (left) with Kenney forming away from the old Tory party

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## CANADA



The Mounties' famous Musical Ride. British Columbia considers its own provincial police

# A weakened force

APEC raises doubts about the RCMP's future

The Mounties have been down this road before—and lived to a result. Then, it was the 1970s: an inquiry headed by Justice David McKeown investigated the force's role in a barn-burning in Quebec and other seizures. That time, the country's national police force—and more-cognized symbol after the Maple Leaf—was stripped of its intelligence arm. Now, an RCMP Public Complaints Commission panel has been examining the force's use of pepper spray against protesters at last November's Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation summit in Vancouver—possibly on instructions from the Prime Minister's Office, if not from the man himself. And this time, the RCMP stands to lose even more.

Much damage has been done already. The inquiry that the force has relied on publicly to clear its name adjoined, beset by setbacks, on Oct. 23. It was to resume on Nov. 16. But the panel is under scrutiny by the Federal Court of Canada for a growing list of alleged biases—including possibly prejudicial statements against the RCMP attributed to both panel chairman Gerald Martin and the minister to whom he reports, federal Solicitor General Andy Scott. Last week, commission spokeswoman Susan Stewart acknowledged that when the panel reconvenes, it will only be to postpone hearings—possibly into next year—to give

the court time to consider the inquiry's future.

The Mounties, meanwhile, felt yet more heat last week. According to several reports, a special RCMP task force had recommended criminal charges, including the use of excessive force, against 11 officers involved in APEC security. Provincial Crown attorneys decided not to pursue charges, but week, they refused to say why, citing their desire not to prejudice the inquiry. RCMP spokesmen first confirmed the report, then backpedaled, claiming the task force had simply compiled evidence—but had not urged that charges be laid. But with the opposition in Ottawa demanding a full judicial inquiry into the APEC issues, new pressure on the RCMP added to rising doubts about the force's future in British Columbia.

The RCMP acts as the B.C. provincial police, as well as supplementing most of the province's municipalities. But B.C. Attorney General Ujjal Dosanjh has complained repeatedly to recent weeks that Mountie budget restraints have increasingly left British Columbians defenseless against crime. In an attempt to make up for \$8.5 million in overage during last year, the B.C. division of the RCMP has laid off an overall, laid up its reserve units, restricted travel and refused to pay overtime for members who take calls after working hours in remote detachments. Privately, officers say many special units and even some

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## CANADA

large investigations have been compromised. "Cutbacks to the RCMP have forced me to question the federal government's commitment to a national RCMP presence in our country," said Denehy last week, before a meeting with Scott at which the federal minister refused to put more money into RCMP operations in British Columbia. If the province becomes too dissatisfied, Denehy has hinted, it may set up its own provincial police modelled on forces in Ontario and Quebec.

Unresolved doubts about the RCMP's role at AFPC are likely to strengthen arguments for Denehy to take that radical step. Earlier this year, his department cut the ribbon for a new independent police commission to provide a check on B.C.'s municipal police forces—four years after an inquiry catalogued shortcomings in accountability. One criticism of the new commission was that it would be unable to act as a check on the activities of the RCMP in the province. (Under federal legislation, that is the job of the public complaints commission.) States Glen Koenig, a professor at the University of Victoria who specializes in policing issues: "There is no question the RCMP's reputation has been badly damaged. The pressure of public opinion may become so great that Denehy feels he must replace the force."

As Koenig, that would be a great step backward—for the RCMP and the country. Thirty per cent of the Mounties in uniform serve in British Columbia. Deband them, Koenig predicts, and it will become difficult for the RCMP to create the force to cope with possible future crises such as active standoffs, or major security details at such international meetings as a G-7 summit—or AFPC. But what troubles him, Koenig admits, is the possibility of losing a daily reminder of British Columbia's ties to the larger nation beyond the Rockies. Koenig calls it "outrageous" that Prime Minister Jean Chrétien would risk tarnishing the reputation, let alone risk the future, of "one of the few symbols of national unity that reaches all the way out to British Columbia."

It is a somewhat shaken symbol already. Operational restraints, together with the continuing furor over AFPC, have sent morale plummeting. "I have very little faith in our senior officers," lamented one Mountie after weeks of public criticism of the force was left largely unanswered before the inquiry adjourned. "I am very little standing up for principle." Official spokesmen for the force—and lawyers for the 41 individual RCMP officers against whom complaints were lodged after AFPC—insist a different picture will emerge when all the evidence is in. But as the Vancouver panel awaits its own date in court, that day is indefinitely delayed—even as checks gather over the future of the force in British Columbia.

CHRIS WOOD in Vancouver



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Regan with his wife, Carole. It has been sexually and financially draining.

## CANADA Trial and tribulation

Gerald Regan goes to court to face sex charges

Gerald Regan is trying hard to enjoy his autumnal years. At 70, the former Nova Scotia premier and federal cabinet minister plays hockey four times a week. He lunches weekly with friends at a Swiss Chalet restaurant. Some days, he visits his downsize Halifax law office. He and his wife of 41 years, Carole, even stored the occasional Liberal party function. Everywhere, Regan is publicly upbeat and personable—remember for a man who faces harassment and possibly jail. This week, after all, he goes on trial in Halifax on eight charges of rape, attempted rape, indecent assault and unlawful confinement. "We have managed to compartmentalize things and get on with our lives," Regan told *Maclean's*. "That you cannot escape it. It has been emotionally and financially draining."

The word is likely still ahead. Publication bans and court officials ensured that the substance of the legal allegations against Regan stayed secret, as the charges worked their way through the Nova Scotia court system over the past three years. Now, unless the judge finds the unlikely step of extending the rape restrictions, all the details will be exposed to the glare of public scrutiny. The proceedings, which are scheduled to run for six weeks, will be a nightmare for the father of six who once ran a province and huge federal bureaucracies—and will now have to sit,

day after day, while allegations about his sex life are probed in court and revealed to the public.

All the while, the water keeps leaking. By most estimates, Regan—who owns a well-appointed house in Bedford, N.S.—has already run up considerably more than \$1 million in legal fees. In a recent interview, he declined to discuss his financial situation, but *Maclean's* has learned that a group of Maritime Liberals has been raising money to cover the costs of keeping Edward Greenaway, the Charlottetown lawyer who represented Regan through the pretrial motions, on the case. It is not the first time friends have helped with Regan's legal bills. Nova Scotia Liberals say his chief financial benefactor since the case began in New Brunswick three years ago is Joseph Blais, a Liberal MP, who did not respond to questions posed to his office in Moncton, N.B. Now, party leaders say that even less-well-heeled Greens are reaching out to assist Regan to ante up \$25,000 a month to help their erstwhile stripped-off party stalwart.

But all the money in the world will mean little if the case against Regan is strong enough. And the prosecution has attacked the growth-unfriendly and. Throughout the pretrial, Greenaway argued that his client was being entrained by RCMP investigators and a Crown prosecutor's effort determined to nail the once-powerful politician at his

prime. Last April, Nova Scotia Supreme Court justice Michael MacDonald partially agreed—throwing out nine counts of indecent assault against Regan, which he said would damage the integrity of the justice system. It allowed to proceed to trial. MacDonald also ruled that the Crown had lost its objectivity by becoming too involved in the RCMP investigation, before any charges were laid by improperly conducting extensive and emotional interviews with the 13 women who made complaints.

That was one small victory for the defence. But Greenaway failed to convince the court to toss each of the nine remaining charges separately—a move that could have prevented the prosecution from attempting to demonstrate a pattern of conduct on Regan's part. The court did agree to defer one charge of indecent assault until a later date. Nevertheless, Regan—who held, among other things, the later cabinet Trade and Labor portfolios under former prime minister Pierre Trudeau—will face a battery of gross charges: one count of rape, two counts of attempted rape, three charges of indecent assault and two more of unlawfully confining a woman.

These charges stem from three incidents which allegedly occurred between 1986 and 1989. Conviction on the rape charge alone could mean jail, although sentencing will be up to the judge's discretion, and legal observers say Regan's age could mitigate against a harsh sentence if he is found guilty. The Crown, which has spent more than \$1 million pursuing the allegations against Regan, will build its case on the testimony of the three female complainants, none of whom can be identified. And to bolster its arguments, Crown prosecutors Adrian Bend and Denise Smith intend to call another three dozen witnesses.

Greenaway is not as forthcoming about his defence strategy. "I am not saying anything other than that our plan will be a capital 'G' fight," he says. "I will be attacking the merits of the complaints; it may be difficult at the preliminary stage; the provincial Supreme Court rejected the defence's motion that the so-called shield law, which severely limits the release of sexual assault complainant medical, school or other personal records to defence lawyers, was unconstitutional and violated Regan's right to a fair trial."

Regan, who has always maintained his innocence, says he just wants justice. Re-demption, he knows, may be out of the question. "When you are charged with something like this," he said, "even if you are totally vindicated there will be people who will still have their lives."

JUDITH MCNEWT in Moncton

## CANADA NOTES

### FRENCH ACROSS THE LAND

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission ruled that most public TV companies must carry live coverage. Quebec's most popular French-language network, TVA, the CRTT said the Broadcasting Act requires greater access to French programming. Broad-casting TVA nationwide, it added, will "contribute to promoting Canada's linguistic duality and cultural diversity."

### AN APOLOGY TO NATIVES

The United Church of Canada apologized for its role in running aboriginal residential schools, which have become notorious for the sexual and physical abuse inflicted upon native children. The apology came one week after new evidence showed church and federal officials knew about the abuse as early as 1960, but did nothing.

### ALBERTA CRACKDOWN

Premier Ralph Klein announced the province will spend \$3 million over the next two years for police and equipment—much of which will go towards countering a rash of bombings in the province's northwestern oil and gas fields. There have been nearly 100 acts of vandalism directed at the province's resource companies over the past two years, and last month an oil company executive was shot dead.

### CLEARING A COLONEL

Military investigators and civilian police said they found no evidence to substantiate allegations of sexual misconduct against Col. Sergey Likhov, who led the ill-fated Somalia mission in 1993. Maj. Bruce Poirier, a military public officer, also cleared in a 1999 memo that Likhov had behaved improperly towards a female civilian employee at a military base in Kingston, Ont. The memo was later leaked.

### SENTENCED FOR FRAUD

Alan Gerard of Toronto was sentenced to four years in prison for fraud and ordered to forfeit about \$173,000 worth of assets. His company, Royal International Collectables Inc., sold cheap goods as expensive ones and earned approximately \$50 million over 11 years before being closed by the RCMP in 1987. Regan was among the companies defunct in Oct. 18, which's special report on embezzlement fraud.



**ANOTHER CLUE:** Officials in Dartmouth, N.S., examine the tail engine from Swissair Flight 111 that was recovered off Peggys Cove, N.S. The Transportation Safety Board of Canada, meanwhile, said it has also found hoard-damaged wiring from the MD-11 jet's onboard entertainment system. That led to speculation about whether the wiring could have started a fire on the jet, which crashed on Sept. 2, killing all 239 people aboard. "We don't know whether it is a cause or an effect," chief investigator Vic Gensler concluded. Swissair says it will disconnect the suspect wiring on its 15 remaining MD-11s and 747s.

## Taking flak for old helicopters

Defence Minister Art Eggleton came under opposition fire in the House of Commons after the Canadian Forces announced that six fleet of grounded Labrador helicopters have been cleared to resume normal duties. The 30-year-old search-and-rescue helicopters were grounded last month—except for emergency—after a Labrador crashed on Oct. 3 in Quebec's Gaspé region, killing all six crewmen. In Parliament, MPs questioned the wisdom of letting the helicopters resume flying before the cause of the crash is known. "Search and rescue is about saving lives," Eggleton told the Commons. "And we don't put up aircraft unless they're safe to use, safe

for our crews and safe for the people that are out there going to be recipients of this service."

The air force will, however, reconsider the hours of flight to just enough to keep Labrador crews proficient, and so live commander Lt.-Gen. David Newman. "We find anything to suggest that the aircraft is unsafe, I will not hesitate to restrict the fleet once again," Newman said. Still, a number of military personnel have expressed concern over the safety of the 18 remaining Labradors, and the Canadian Forces said personnel ferry of the two-bid helicopters will not be ferried to St. John's. It has bought 15 Comanches to replace the Labradors with the first due to arrive in 2001.

### Bovine growth wrangle

The office of the federal information commissioner launched an investigation into whether senior officials at the health protection branch destroyed documents concerning the safety of bovine growth hormone, which stimulates milk production and has yet to be approved in Canada. Barbara Nelson, a Senate

researcher who filed the complaint, says health employees told her that an unusually large number of documents were shredded a day after three health scientists notified her of the Senate agriculture committee, which is investigating the safety of the genetically engineered hormone. The scientists testified that their superiors pressure them to approve the hormone without adequate proof that it is safe.



# The heavy weight of truth

Tutu's commission finds fault on all sides

Was a black man named Robert Mofokeng a victim or a perpetrator? It's a question that will be asked for years when his blow up a South African bar frequented by apartheid army officers? Was a white man named Dirk Coetzee a victim or a perpetrator for his white supremacy when he joined a hit squad set up by the far-right National Party government? The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's findings on these and other apartheid-era crimes by the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Last week, the commission presented its five-volume, eight-thousand-page, 3,200-page final report to President Nelson Mandela in Pretoria. In each, specific analysis culled from thousands of testimonies from victims' statements, the report catalogues human rights crimes committed by both sides in the struggle over apartheid between 1960 and 1994. "Accept this report as an indispensable way to healing," TRC chairman Desmond Tutu told Mandela. Yet the president, whose African National Congress voted to block publication of the document, warned it is "bound to awaken many of the difficult and troubling emotions that the language themselves brought."

Despite the TRC's best intentions, South Africans still exhibit racial tensions when they consider human rights crimes committed during the struggle. Whites hate McElride's assassination but not of guilt," said Hugo van der Merwe of the Johannesburg-based Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation. "The TRC hasn't discussed how to support people in a self-reflexive process."

Yet the report certainly contains much to be self-reflective on both sides. It concludes that former president P. W. Botha ordered the bombing of the South African Council of Churches in Johannesburg in

## RECONCILIATION.



Mandela (left) receives the report from Tutu: a collective sense of suffering, but no guilt

1988, which injured 25 people. As president from 1978 to 1986, Botha created the covert government agencies that spawned hit squads and the infamous Vlakplaas farm, where political detainees were tortured. The TRC was going to name Botha's successor, F. W. de Klerk, as an accessory after the fact for knowing about the church bombing and another attack. But at the last minute, the commission used a black square to blot out the finding, already widely reported, to spare all a court challenge by de Klerk that could have stopped the document's release.

The report holds top apartheid officials, including the ministers of police and law and order, responsible for institutionalizing torture. Yet the TRC did not set a smoking gun with which to pin murder on apartheid leaders. The commission's findings are almost palpable when it points to the cabinet's use of "language in its statements and recommendations that was highly ambiguous." Apartheid assassins testified that cabinet terms like "make a plan" were coded orders to kill, but cabinet members denied it.

When it came to the black liberation movement, the TRC distinguished between those "just cause" in fighting apartheid—and their often "racist means." The ANC, the report says, failed to prevent the torture and murder of its own members in numerous court trials in the movement's Angola camps in the early 1980s. It also says the ANC recklessly armed young people in its township self-defense units and the party's youth wing, who then became uncontrollable. As for Winnie Mandela—Mandela's former wife and still an important ANC figure, the TRC charges her with direct involvement in kidnapping and torture, and complicity in murder and

cover-ups. The ANC leadership, it adds, was ultimately responsible for her activities.

Not surprisingly, the report was quickly rejected by the ANC and other black liberation movements as well as by the white-right National Party and the extreme right wing. On the day of release, the ANC filed in a lawsuit to get its own court injunction to prevent publication, an action that angered Tutu. "If they thought that because they're the government we were going to give them special treatment," he said, "it was a big mistake." The angry reaction from all sides, commented human rights lawyer Vinodh Jadhav, "is probably an indication that the report is very balanced."

The commission has yet to finish the tricky job of deciding who gets amnesty in return for confessing their political crimes. Of 1,000 amnesty applications, the TRC has released 457, granted just 135 and will decide the rest by March 1998, when a sixth volume of the report will be published. The report says grimly that "prosecution should be considered" for those who related amnesty as did not apply. That includes Mandela, Mandela, Botha and various members of the South African Police Service. Prosecutions, however, are up to provincial attorneys general, who are hold-overs from the apartheid regime and have so far seemed reluctant to follow through.

Whether or not the commission achieves its mandate of reconciliation, it has unearthed a grim deal of truth. That alone fills Tutu with a gritty kind of hope. "We have looked the beast in the eye," he said last week, "and we say 'Never again!'"

KATE DUNN is in Pretoria



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WASHINGTON  
Andrew Phillips

# The Blanchard factor

When an old pal moves into the White House, the last thing you want to do is leave town. So it comes as no surprise to learn that being Bill Clinton's ambassador to Canada was not at the top of James Blanchard's wish list back in 1993. No, Blanchard wanted to be in Clinton's cabinet and let it be known that he'd like Commerce or Transportation. Just before Christmas, everything seemed to be set, the president elect's name assured him that Clinton wanted him as transportation secretary. Blanchard celebrated with his family and waited for the final phone call from Clinton, who only weeks

earlier had told him that he had been "like a brother to me." Instead, Blanchard learned via CNN that someone else had been given the job, he said he had left him high and dry. "I thought I knew him really well up until this moment," Blanchard writes in his new book *Behind the Embassy Door: Canada, Clinton and Quebec*. "Then I decided I didn't know him at all."

Instead, Blanchard got the consolation prize, a ticket to Ottawa, where he was U.S. ambassador from 1993 to 1996. A lot of the Canadians mentioned in his memoir may wish he had stayed. Immediately after all, The RCMP will not copy anything that the U.S. Secret Service viewed them as "rather clumsy" during preparations for Clinton's visit to Ottawa in 1995. Nor will the Mounties appreciate his account of how they staged a practice motorcycle in front of the U.S. embassy across from the Parliament buildings, alerting any potential assassins of the President's route and leaving the Secret Service agents in charge of Clinton's security "practically weeping." And Prime Minister Jean Chretien was humiliated by Blanchard's disclosure that he called the ambassador three days before the 1995 Quebec referendum to propose that an "international panel" figure out how to divvy up Canada's debt in the event of a Yes vote. A tad too eager, perhaps?

But those who have must misson to regret Blanchard's tenure as Quebec's representative. As he describes it, he found that Washington's exuberantly balanced "mission" on the independence issue—how it enjoyed good relations with a united Canada but Quebec's future was up to its voters—was so balanced that some states were panning it "as a sign of support, sympathy or indifference." So Blanchard, a successful governor and longtime Democratic party operative in Michigan who helped Clinton win the presidency in 1992, threw his considerable political skills into making sure the U.S. government tilted decisively toward the federalist camp in its hour of need. Ultimately, Clinton himself

spoke out days before the referendum, extolling Canada as a "venerable partner." There wasn't much doubt, Washington likes them just as they are. Or as Blanchard puts it: "Americans aren't into separatism and secession."

None of that comes as a surprise. Even sovereign states who know the United States will realize they will never get active support from Washington, the best they can hope for is to convince Americans that a new century on their northern border is something they could learn to live with. What is more revealing is how casually involved Blanchard became with the No cause and how close were his ties to Chretien and his circle. He was in the shaver getting ready for a TV interview on referendum night when his wife rushed into the bathroom to tell him that the CBC had finally called the vote for the No side. "Thank God!" yelled back.

At times, it seemed as though the ambassador was an ex officio member of the Chretien team. He figured out quickly that power in Ottawa is highly centralized, that there were only 15 or 20 key players he had to deal with, and he set about cultivating them. In his weeks leading up to the referendum, he was on the phone frequently with some of the Prime Minister's closest advisers, including Eddie Goldenberg, Jean Pélétier and John Rae. He golled with Chretien, and was cleared to a private meeting in Montreal with the PMO's polaris, Minister Plourd. As the poll numbers worsened for the federalists, he arranged for Warren Christopher, then secretary of state, to speak out on Canada's unity and worked to get Clinton and Chretien together at the United Nations. How tight was he with the people who matter? So tight that the Prime Minister took time to call him only minutes before he addressed the giant anti-independence rally in Montreal.

Is any of this worrying? Canadians normally fret that Americans don't pay us enough attention, that for them we are, as Blanchard's telling phrase, the "invisible world next door." On the other hand, we don't want them getting too interested. They're bound to have delicate ideas of what should be done and, being American and all, not shy about making sure it happens. Blanchard even suggested his own "Plan B" to Chretien—proposing ways Ottawa could fight separatism more aggressively. And the timing of his book is no accident. With a Quebec election under way and yet another referendum looming, the message to separatists is clear: Forget Paris. Washington is the capital that counts, and there will be no aid or comfort from that quarter.



The former U.S. envoy with Clinton in 1993: a hit for the Quebec referendum

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## RISING TENSIONS

In a move that led to fears of a fresh showdown, Iraq announced it was ending cooperation with United Nations weapons inspectors. The announcement came on Saturday, a day after the UN Security Council decided to review Iraq's progress in eliminating prohibited weapons—but refused Iraq's demand that the review lead directly to the lifting of trade sanctions.

## HAMAS CHIEF ARRESTED

Bravelying a crackdown on Islamic militants, Palestinian police rounded up more than 100 Hamas activists and placed the group's founder, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, under house arrest. The sweep followed a failed suicide attack on an Israeli school bus in which an Israeli soldier was killed. The arrests signalled Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's determination to follow through on guarantees he gave the previous week in agreeing a land-for-peace pact with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Washington.

## DISCO TRAGEDY

More than 60 people died and another 500 were injured in Göteborg, Sweden, when a fire-bombed a dance hall packed with teenage Halloween revelers on a death trap. The cause of the fire was not immediately known, but officials believed it was triggered accidentally.

## REGENERATING THE BRAIN

Researchers have discovered that people can still create new brain cells during adulthood. The finding, reported in the journal *Nature Medicine*, contradicts traditional wisdom that the brain has a finite number of cells. And it suggests that scientists may someday be able to develop treatments for brain disorders caused by such afflictions as alcoholism and Parkinson's or Alzheimer's disease.

## THE DAVIES MYSTERY

Britain's Welsh secretary, Ron Davies, resigned from Prime Minister Tony Blair's cabinet after admitting to a "serious lapse of judgment" in agreeing to go to the flat of a man he met in a London park. The man and an accomplice later held the 52-year-old minister in an airport and released him in two cars, walked and parliamentary cars. Davies, who is married with one daughter, denied intense fabricated speculation that gay sex or drugs were involved.



Discovery blasts off, then heads for the shuttle today or tomorrow and great!

## An orbiting old-timer

The last time up, the shy little of Perth, Australia, were a little closer. This time, John Glenn—white astronaut, Democratic senator, American hero—renewed the city from some 500 km in space, about 100 km higher, as when he first saw them from orbit in 1998. But on they had done back then. Perth residents lit as many lamps as possible so that Glenn, 77, could relive history while making it again—now as the oldest astronaut to enter space. "We got a good view of Perth, a nice glow," Glenn said.

But the first American to orbit the planet had to wait a little before he could ever see much.

It took for a surprise of the journey. Glenn and his six fellow astronauts were briefly delayed when Mission Control halted the countdown because a white alarm signalled a problem with cable pressure, and again when an airplane ventrator also indicated air space. Finally, 28 minutes later, the space shuttle Discovery roared off the pad at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, watched by millions of television viewers around the world. Less than two minutes later, Glenn was in orbit. "They, enjoying the show," he told Mission Control as he soared over Hawaii. "I don't know what happens on down the line, but today is beautiful and great." Once up, the crew looked back by activating experiments in the Space Shuttle's nacelle carried in Discovery's cargo bay. After a night's rest, the astronauts' first full day began when Mission Control woke them with Louis Armstrong's *What A Wonderful World*.

## RUSSIA

## Nikitin's case goes on hold

Legal proceedings against a former Russian minister, left on ice because of space. Nikitin has been suspended—having seen the possibility that he may soon be allowed to join

his family in Canada. Alexander Nikitin was being tried in St. Petersburg for allegedly breaking storage laws by co-ordinating with a Norwegian environmental group, a report in the Russian newspaper, *Sovetskaya Pravda*. Nikitin says he drew his information only from public sources. While the judge criticized the prosecution's case

and turned back for further investigation, Nikitin still has not been declared innocent and must remain in St. Petersburg. His wife and children recently moved to Canada. Nikitin's father, Vladimir, who lived in Moscow to allow Nikitin to immigrate, has offered to allow Nikitin to leave—and the charges are dropped.

## Pinochet gets bail but little legal relief

Former Chilean dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet was given bail but remained in legal limbo following a flurry of court rulings. Pinochet had been arrested in London on Oct. 16 as a Spanish warrant charged him with murder and genocide involving Spanish and other nationals. Last week, a three-judge British High Court panel ruled that, as a former leader of state, Pinochet had a right to diplomatic immunity and should be freed. Prosecutors said they would appeal to a five-judge tribunal at the House of Lords, the country's highest judicial body. Meanwhile, Spain's highest court considered it had the right to try Pinochet.

Legal experts predicted the British lower court decision would likely be overturned, clearing the way for his extradition. Facing widespread criticism of the ruling, the American Association of Jurists, which includes Canadian judges and lawyers, said that in upholding immunity, the British court had "reopened a new legal concept." Under his bail conditions, Pinochet was to remain in a London clinic, where he was arrested after undergoing back surgery, until the appeal is heard.



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When all the pieces are put together a great Trail emerges. To see the sum of these parts, a general review of the Trans Canada Trail has been superimposed over the above satellite image. You will see how the Trail will wind its way through every province and territory, linking major metropolitan areas, small cities and thousands of communities and countless smaller trails along its path. The Trail is being built on land which comes from existing trails wherever possible, abandoned railway lines, federal and provincial parks, along active railway lines and on private land holdings granting rights of way.

Building a 15,000-kilometre Trail across our country requires active and ardent support—not only from within the Trail movement—but from many levels of society: individual Canadians, civic communities, schools, service clubs, corporations, governments and countless grassroots organizations.

#### METRE BY METRE, THE DREAM COMES TRUE

From within the Trail movement alone, organizations representing over 1,500,000 volunteers have come together to build the Trail. Over 125,000 Canadians have either contributed directly or received Trail metres as gifts. To date the Trans Canada Trail Foundation has raised over \$2,000,000 and contributed over \$1,600,000 to community Trail projects across Canada. All remaining funds are managed by our Founding Sponsor, Canada Trust. This growing support from Canadians will successfully put in place up to 40 per cent of the Trail before the end of 1999—the rest will be completed by the year 2000. And now the Trans Canada Trail has been recognized as an official Millennium project by the federal government and British Columbia has become the first province to declare it a Millennium undertaking. Metre by metre, community by community, it is growing across the land.

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TRAIL







# CHAIN REACTION

The launch of a new national daily starts an industry upheaval

BY ANTHONY WILSON-SMITH

## Business

It is no newswriter's rule of journalism that big stories often appear where—and when—they are least expected. These days, that adage also applies to the business world, where newspapers seem to quake more as much as report it. Consider last week, which began with the launch of Southern Inc.'s new daily, the *National Post*. Its appearance marked the start of a head-on battle with Canada's other first Toronto-based, self-declared national newspaper, *The Globe and Mail*, owned by Thomson Co. But two days after the *Post*'s debut, both newspapers found themselves splintering from page coverage to a new conflict of rivals. The sharp, a bundle \$145-million takeover bid by Torstar Corp.—owner of *The Toronto Star*—for Sun Media Corp., which operates *The Toronto Star* and 14 other newspapers across the country. Sid Rogers Parkinson, publisher of the *Globe and Mail*, I'm not easily surprised, but this just knocked me flat over."

He isn't alone. In less than a week, the newspaper industry—which has already been radically transformed since Conrad Black took over majority control at Southern in 1996—has entered another period of upheaval. In the short term, the launch of the *Post* will be the most dramatic sign of change. Canada now has two nationally distributed newspapers competing for the same upmarket, largely urban readers. The new paper was generally well received by analysts and media critics, although its layout and format, which resemble those of the *Globe*, caused some surprise. It has good points, but it faces nothing in common with the

prototype that Southern was showing around during the takeover, "said Ann Bates, president of the Motion Media Group/Division of BDO in Toronto. "The prototype had a lot more color, a lot more design, and it looked like a lot more exciting."

Still, the new newspaper attracted plenty of interest—and readers. In Toronto, the *Post*'s most important market, many prospective buyers complained that it sold out so quickly in the downtown area on the first day that they could not find a copy—although that was at least partly due to distribution problems. Nationally, first-day sales topped 380,000. "The demand is tremendous," said publisher Dan Balach. "One of the most profitable things is that in the West as well as Central Canada." One measure of that success at week's end: The number of small copies returned from newsstands—normally about 40 per cent at copies printed—was about half that. Another measure of Southern officials' confidence in their new product was their refusal to offer introductory rate cuts to advertisers. In fact, Southern has followed a policy of pricing *Post* advertisements at 25 per cent less than an equivalent in the *Globe*—so that a full-page ad for a regular client in the new paper will cost about \$26,500. Complained Bates, "We are not being very advertiser-friendly." But, said Balach, "We are determined to justify our price."

At the same time, Southern and the *Post* are confronted with the prospect of another newspaper company with a powerful national reach—and what would constitute an overwhelming presence in the country's richest market, the Metropolitan Toronto area. A second-

ed Torstar bid would give a 36 per cent of total average daily circulation, with properties including the two biggest newspapers in Toronto, and others in cities ranging from Edmonton and Calgary to the West to Ottawa, London and Hamilton in Ontario. "We see this as a unique opportunity to grow as a newspaper company," Torstar CEO David Galloway told *Maclean's*.

Investors seemed to approve. In the wake of the announcement of the bid, Torstar stock jumped from \$16.90 to \$16.35 by week's end, while Sun Media stock improved even more, jumping from \$9.90 to \$16.90 in a similar period. Said one Bay Street analyst, who asked not to be identified: "This would be a great move for both companies—even if Sun Media hates it." And that seems precisely the case, as the Torstar bid was rejected in emphatic terms by Sun Media CEO Paul God-

frey after an emergency board meeting. But the company is now in play—and Torstar remains at the head of the list of suitors. In an effort to fend off that bid, or at least drive Torstar away from its present offer of \$18.4 a share, Sun Media said at week's end that it has named CIBC Wood Gundy Inc. as an adviser. Said Galloway: "A lot of people have called and are interested."

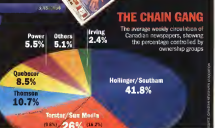
That may be the case, but the aftermath of the Torstar move, most of the obvious potential buyers appeared either uninterested for strategic reasons or scared off by the price. They include Quebecor Inc., which expressed interest in Sun Media in the past but backed off when the price was even lower than it is now—Thomson, and Brunswick News of the Maritimes (owned by the wealthy Irving family). Quebecor officials refused comment, while Thomson and Brunswick officials said they felt they will not make a bid. Still, a source with good contacts among Sun board members said that many of them believe they can attract a bid of at least \$20 a share. Other potential moves include a Sun management attempt to retain control by borrowing money to buy up shares themselves. That move would likely be accompanied by the strategic sale of some assets—such as newspapers outside the Metropolitan Toronto area—in order to raise money. Some of the properties that Torstar is expected to court just include the broadband Hamilton *Starline*, the Brockville *Recorder* and *Times*, Kitchener-Waterloo's *The Record*, and the London *Free Press*. The Sun group could still lose properties without touching the core of its chain—the string of Sun tabloid newspapers in four cities. As well, Southern officials indicated that while they are unlikely to bid on the entire company, they are interested in some properties.

But Torstar officials say at least part of the attraction for them would be the cost savings that would result from acquiring properties in and around the Toronto area, including *The Toronto*

## THE TOP TEN

Weekly copies sold

Rank	Newspaper	Copies Sold
1	The Globe and Mail	1,827,813
2	The Journal of Commerce	1,694,366
3	The Toronto Star	1,156,542
4	La Presse	1,232,295
5	The Vancouver Sun	1,228,681
6	Edmonton Post	1,076,666*
7	The Gazette	1,033,066
8	The Kelowna Journal	1,032,098
9	Shawinigan Chronicle	1,011,356
10	Halifax Chronicle	988,000



## BUSINESS

See and some smaller community newspapers. Although CEO Galloway insisted that the Star would be run editorially as a separate operation, he emphasized that money could be saved through shared services such as administrative, circulation and distribution, and perhaps printing, and, interestingly Galloway, the newspapers might eventually share other services. At least some of the newspapers might set up a news-gathering cooperative service nationally.

Any or all of these suggestions are anathora to Star employees who are at the heart of the Star Media, where, according to Galloway, the Star has been on a slide all day since The Toronto Star was founded in 1971. "This thing just makes me choke," said Doug Fisher, the veteran columnist who is one of the Star's most respected figures. In fact, the two newspapers are quite similar in some ways—including their insistence that they speak for average citizens, and the highly left-wing sense of family that both have toward their employees.

But in other ways, they are dramatically different, both in their corporate structures and the manner in which they perceive themselves. Tentor, which has its roots in the founding of the Star in 1892, is well-liked, well established, and courts its ad-to-opinion-middle-class readership with an editorial policy that is relentlessly liberal, frequently advocating government intervention on social issues. Star Media reveals its true colour: libertarianism, enhanced by such traditions as its ad-to-opinion policy. Star 360, a local news array of columnists who write with each other in a way that is reminiscent of the blended news. Heather Bell, a popular Star columnist who previously worked as a Star reporter, says the two newspapers could not be more different as employers. "The Star is entirely management-driven, any one mid-level copy editor, no matter how many years, can make or break writers," she said. "The Star has its bottom up place, you argue and fight with each other, but in the end you get your feet all in this together." On the other hand, the Star's RBC, in a recent column, described the Star's version of the future. "The Star has a political columnist who underwent a heart



Mark (left) in the past, newspaper. Tentor wants the fight for Toronto readers even after

transplant. The Star has several political columnists who are in need of heart transplants.

These differences extend to the way the companies are structured. Tentor, at least until this week, has recently been diversifying by expanding into fields outside publishing. In 1994, for example, newspapers and book publishing accounted for 88 percent of all revenue. By last year, that figure had dropped to 78 percent as Tentor began investing in children's supplementary educational products. Tentor's takeover plan would be financed by \$600 million in bank borrowing. But Tentor says it would pay down some of that debt by selling off its supplementary educational product divisions. That move would be consistent with the trend in business for companies to concentrate on one specific area, rather than diversifying. But it is potentially risky, as the economy falters and newspapers start to experience drops in advertising revenue and circulation. "We know that focus on newspapers will make us more cyclical and susceptible to ups and downs," says Galloway. "That our forecasts in

## A SMILE WITH A HARDENED EDGE

When The Toronto Star brightened its belt in 1995, publisher John Henschel, declined a bonus of \$122,000 to which he was entitled. Under the circumstances, he said, it would be inappropriate. Still, his promotion from editor-in-chief means Henschel previously had given him an \$80,000 raise, so he still came out ahead. To both astirers and critics, that made a logical start for the 59-year-old Henschel. "Even when he seemed to lose," says one longtime acquaintance, "he wins."

That almost always seems true. As publisher—and member of a family that holds a 14.6 percent interest in Tentor—Henschel is one of the most powerful people in Canadian journalism. With his trademark bow tie, perpetual smile and lankier jaw, he is one of its most recognizable. Despite a psychotic last year of \$255,000 in salary



Henschel: a key role in Tentor's bid

and bonuses, Henschel lives modestly in the Summerhill area of downtown Toronto. He is now separated from his wife, writer Katherine Gower, the couple has two teenage children—son Robin, 18, and daughter Emily Rose, 16. In his professional life, Henschel moves as effortlessly and often between the worlds of everyday journalism and money-making as Henschel. Insiders at the Star believe he played a key role in last week's move on Star Media. "Nothing happens here that John didn't have a hand in," says one reporter. Unlike other major newspapers, the Star has not had an editor-in-chief since Henschel stepped the position. Henschel takes part in all major editorial decisions—as well as such aspects as meeting with advertisers. "John has made the Star a far more friendly place to advertisers than it used to be," says Ann

Baden, president of the McKinn Media Group division of 8800 in Toronto.

While such multiple roles are frowned on in journalism, Henschel's moves match other, partly because of his background as a reporter. After receiving a law degree from the University of Toronto, he worked as a copyboy at the Ottawa Citizen in 1973. He joined the Star in 1976 and, over the years, worked as Ottawa bureau chief, Washington correspondent and in a variety of other jobs before becoming editor-in-chief in 1988. "John," says broadcaster Pamela Wallin, a longtime friend, "is a terrific journalist. He would be a great boss at any newspaper under any circumstances."

Colleagues caution that under his easy smile lies a competitive soul. As he said in an interview last year: "No one should make the mistake of thinking the Star will sit back and wait. We know how to defend ourselves." As Tentor showed last week, the best defence is still a good offence.

ANTHONY WILSON-SMITH

## BUSINESS

clude the possibility of a recession and we would be prepared."

For their advantage for Tentor would be the chance to enhance its place in the country's expanding Internet market. Right now, Tentor is doing well in the Toronto market with Web sites that offer such services as an online version of the newspaper, a guide to theatrical events and restaurants, and classified advertising. But its growth efforts are hampered by its lack of national content. Star Media once controlling interest in Canoe, Ltd., one of the country's largest Web sites with more than 20 million page views a month. Although advertising on Canoe Web sites will total only about \$20 million this year, most media analysts expect that figure to increase by multiples over the next five years.

Still, said Galloway, it was a move involving traditional media products—and, ironically, Southern—that led to Tentor's decision to bid for Star Media. Last July, Star Media swapped The Financial Post and \$150 million to Southern to return for The Montreal Star, St. John's Star and The Quebecer. That gave Southern the core of its new national newspaper—and pruned Tentor's officials, who were now redoubled their shipping bid on the lucrative Southern Ontario market, to focus on Star Media, with its new acquisitions. "That," said Galloway, "was when we really took notice. Star moved and started talking."

Still, the question of who talked with whom—and about what—is now a sore point between the two companies. Publisher John Henschel has said that Tentor was approached by Galloway, who was working hard, but that an unspoken Galloway supply denies it. Star Media, which has already changed hands three times in its relatively brief history, is once again up for takeover, whether or not employees approve. After its 1971 founding, the company was bought by Madison Hunter Ltd. in 1985, which was then acquired by Rogers Communications Inc. in late 1994 (along with Maclean's and other properties). Rogers sold the company to an employee-led group put together by Galloway in August, 1996, for \$411 million, or \$337 million less than it is now being offered by Tentor.

Star's large market, Southern Ontario, overlaps with its three largest shareholders with a combined total of 39 per cent, they are all controlled by money managers. The Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Fund holds 16 per cent, Toronto-based Trillium Financial Corp. has 12 per cent, and TML Investment Counsel Ltd. of Montreal has 11 percent. Together, the three can block the deal because Tentor's offer is conditional upon the being able to buy at least two-thirds of shares. At the same time, Galloway and other senior Star Media executives used to wrap enormous personal wealth in the event of any sale. Galloway, who at the end of last year had about 1.7 million stock options, would make about \$22 million on

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## BUSINESS

those options if the stock sold at \$10. As well, in the event of a takeover, Goldreyer would be entitled to about \$1.5 million in deferred salary and bonus. Several other senior executives, including Toronto Star publisher Doug Knigh, would make about \$1.4 million. But Goldreyer insisted that personal concerns were not a factor in his thinking. "My main responsibility is to maximize value for all shareholders, and we do not think this proposal does that."

When—or if—an agreement is reached between the two sides, it will require approval by the competitive bureau. Toronto notified the bureau of its intention about 10 days before the bid. Federal officials said that the deal, which is valid in its present form for a 45-day period, would likely receive a ruling by Christmas. But one irony of the deal was that when Southern and Sun Media swapped newspapers last July, one of the people calling for the government to keep closely at the purchase for fear of excessive media concentration was Toronto Star publisher John Honderich. Said Babek: "The most polite thing I can say is so one should have the nerve to change their hat, let alone their mind, that quickly."

Torstar's proposal would not only give Honderich's company control of the two biggest papers in Toronto, but also a new stronghold on the daily and weekly newspaper market elsewhere in southern Ontario. Because of that, some analysts initially suggested that Torstar might have trouble gaining approval from the federal bureau. But the takeover bid was warmly received by some senior federal leaders, including Heritage Minister Sheila Copps. In answering the issue, Torstar officials would almost certainly cite as precedent the case of Vancouver, where Southern controls both daily newspapers. The Vancouver Star and The Province And Honderich insisted that Torstar's proposed deal would add competition by building a viable national alternative in Southern Ontario, along with its parent company's Hollinger Inc., now has only 42 per cent of circulation across the country.

In all, the debate over the future of Torstar and Sun Media, coupled with the launch of Southern's Post, has been enough to throw both financial markets and hardened newspaper executives into something of a tizzy. "I love the thrill of the game," says the Globe's Patterson. "But all sides may wish for time out at some point to catch their breath." That may likely happen now as the pace quickens and stakes grow higher. One measure of the sense of urgency in the business is an internal study that Honderich recently commissioned by outside auditors on the functions and future of the Star. Although the contents of the report remain secret, its title speaks to the company's concerns about the future. It is called *Star or Stars?*—and while actions last week, Torstar has signaled how hard it will fight to stay comfortably afloat. □

## BUSINESS

# The hungry giants

Loblaws moves to  
buy Provigo while  
Sobeys seeks IGA

By the end of last week, it was clear that Canada's biggest grocers are intent on swallowing themselves into much larger—and potentially much more profitable—supermarket giants. After months of speculation, two of the country's major chains made billion-dollar bids to buy their competitors. In a friendly takeover, Toronto's Loblaws Cos. Ltd. will likely merge with Provigo Inc. of Montreal. And New Scott's Sobeys chain is in pursuit of the Ontario Group Ltd., also of Toronto, which operates under the IGA and Price Chopper banners. But while the buyers are in search of more customers, it is not clear that customers are in search of them. As cordial as industry experts, most shoppers give patronage several different outlets, large and small, and many place special and convenient value ahead of price, size or loyalty. Some, like Anne-Marie Raskinen, have even grown to dislike very large stores. The Toronto mother has a new daughter and will return to a teaching job early next year. For her, speed is of the essence. "I went to the big new Loblaws's last week recently and it took me an hour to find the sugar. I prefer a smaller place where I can be in and out in five minutes, even if it costs more."

Such is the challenge facing Canada's food retailing industry, now worth an estimated \$45 billion in annual sales, how to satisfy customers. The Raskinen, who has money to spend but shies away from big stores, is difficult to amuse. With typical profit margins of less than three per cent, grocers must rely on volume. That reality is partially responsible for the merger hype taking hold among the largest chains. The prospect of new competitors is also fueling the drive. Consolidation has already swept the U.S. industry, with observers suggesting the biggest American chains could soon turn their attention northward. Retailers like Arkansas-based Wal-Mart Inc. and Shoppers Drug Mart of Toronto are also grabbing market share away from established food chains, offering a wide variety of groceries, from butter to bologna. "It is incredibly competitive be-



Grocery shopping in Montreal leaving off U.S. competition

cause everybody is putting stores in the other guy's backyard," says George Canada, editor of *Grocery Week*, a trade magazine. And as with most close contests, even a slight slip in performance could end in elimination. Owners of a takeover have searched around Provigo, Quebec's largest grocery chain with annual sales of \$3.9 billion, since last summer. That company's profits are respectable—\$84.9 million last year—but in-

dustry observers say it can do better. It was also seen as a particularly attractive buy for the gigantic Loblaws, which has deep pockets and only a limited presence in Quebec. And while there have been heartbreaks before, consumers in Quebec seem to side with buyers over its rival Quebecor, Provigo—33.6 per cent owned by the powerful union of *département de Québec*—fully supports the bid. That may be because Loblaws has promised that, as part of the \$1.45-billion deal, Provigo will create a separate company based in Montreal with its own board of directors.

Like Provigo, the Ontario Group has also been the subject of merger talk. While it makes money in size among Canadian grocers, it is lagging behind its closest competitors in earnings. Ontario's profit was down by about \$1 million last year, to \$34 million on sales of \$6.6 billion. Rumors that it might be sold began to circulate in August after the company's board of directors passed over their approved Jean-Marie Wink, the 46-year-old son of the family that owns 100 per cent of Ontario's voting shares, and appointed outside John Lacey as chief executive officer. Lacey's last two posts, at WJC Western International Communications Ltd. and Scott's Hospitality Inc., ended with takeovers.

By comparison, Empire Co. Ltd., with its main assets, the Sobeys supermarket chain, gets little credit from industry watchers for a strong performance in its Atlantic Canada base, as well as a slow but steady expansion in Quebec and Ontario. Although it is far smaller than Ontario, Empire's balance sheet is strong and it has extensive plans to run a franchise network, a subsidiary of the Ontario Group. "They are a very good, shrewd, smart retailer," Condon says. "They understand their customers." But by the end of last week, the status of its \$1.4-billion takeover attempt remained unclear.

All in all, there is "a race now for supermarket chains," observes Warren Penton, an analyst at Toronto-based Dundee Securities Corp. This year many supermarket experts are strong on earnings growth of 30 to 35 per cent in a business that, by its very nature, is resistant to booms and bust cycles. "People have to eat," Penton notes. And while mergers are usually good for shareholders, that does not mean they are bad for customers, especially with the possibility of more U.S.-based competitors entering the fray. Penton says, "That is going to provide some impetus from doing away the bank cartons are probably going to do to consumers," Penton says, "and that is just up prices."

PATRICIA CHENOWETH

## THEY ARE WHAT YOU EAT

The share of Canadian grocery spending by company, for the first six months of 1988



\*Includes all other and cash-and-carry retailers



Nonworking in Calgary represent differences in unemployment rates

## BUSINESS

# The employment challenge

An economic slowdown promises a tougher job market

BY DARCY JENISH

Dora Georgopoulos knows a thing or two about unemployment. In 1993, the 33-year-old Toronto-area woman lost her job as a customer services representative when her employer, an automotive software manufacturer, went through a corporate restructuring. Within six months, though, she had landed a new position, counselling unemployed workers and leading job search seminars for a nonprofit organization. Georgopoulos now manages the Dalhousie Job Finding Club, a federally funded group offering two-week courses in resume writing and interview techniques. In the current economic climate, both skills are critically important, she says. While Canada's national unemployment rate has remained stubbornly high, the fate of those without jobs varies widely by province. In Ontario, the economy is doing well and job searches are also successful. "I've never seen the job market so busy," she says. "Five years ago, 50 per cent of our people were finding work. This year, our success rate is over 70 per cent." But with 13 million Canadians officially out of work in September

or 13.3 per cent of the labor force, finding a job can still be a challenge. Take the case of Richard Foreman, a former journalist, communications officer and small-town newspaper publisher. He's 56, and his problem is his age. "The daily beaters live in the middle and they limit it to hard people who are younger than themselves," Foreman said recently while conducting computer searches of job opportunities at the Dalhousie Employment Resource Centre, another federally funded service for the jobless. But younger people who lack the right experience can also wind up out of work, or underemployed. "I've been looking for months and months and months," said Rick Tyler, 36, a part-time cargo handler at Toronto International airport who has a certificate as a digital electronics technician. "I have a diploma, but I don't have enough practical experience."

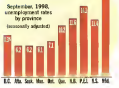
For Canadians looking for work, the job market is not likely to improve much next year, according to even the most optimistic forecasts. Many economists predict the economy will grow by only 1.5 to 2.5 per cent in 1995, compared with almost three per cent this year. That kind of growth is likely to leave the unemployment rate either unchanged or slightly higher. But some observers caution that instability in world financial markets, which has been triggered partly by economic turmoil in Asia and Latin America, could send both the U.S. and Canadian economies into recession next year, drying up the supply of work even more. "We're looking at a slowdown, no question about it," says Derek Dardanis, an economist with the Toronto Dominion Bank. "If we look at the risks facing the economy and

the job market, they are significant."

Whatever uncertainties lie ahead, business and labor groups agree that those thrown out of work by a spluttering economy will be relying on a less generous social safety net to break their fall. In 1997, a number of changes to the Employment Insurance program reduced payouts and made it more difficult to qualify for benefits, particularly for repeat users. The impact is evident from a recent study by the federal human resources department, which runs the program. Last year, 574,000 people, or 42 percent of the 1.36 million unemployed, received unemployment benefits. Throughout the 1980s on the other hand, 62 to 83 per cent of the jobless were able to collect. Labor leaders like Canadian Auto Workers president Buzz Hargrove who strongly oppose the government's policy of running large surpluses in the EI fund, expected to hit \$20 billion in the fiscal year ending next March 31, at the same time that benefits are cut. "While the unemployed and their families struggle to survive, the federal government was on a growing pile of cash originally meant to assist them," Hargrove says. And Andrew Jackson, senior economist with the Ottawa-based Canadian Labour Congress, says heales in the social safety net will allow even more people to fall through it a recession hits.

The fallout from an economic slowdown will hit some regions of the country harder than others, and there are signs this is already occurring. British Columbia is experiencing a mild recession and, while its unemployment rate has been hovering around the national average most of the year, Jack Hainey, vice-president of policy with the Business Council of B.C., says that it is likely because the

## THE PROVINCIAL VIEW



thority. Some companies, he notes, are reporting shortages of skilled workers in fields such as wireless technology and software engineering. The city may be better positioned to ride out a future recession because its economy is less reliant on the oil and gas industry than has been. High-tech companies alone employ nearly 30,000 people, surpassing by a narrow margin direct employment in the oilfield, he says. "Calgary has been on a roll for three years now," says Puzis. "We've had unexpected real growth two years in a row. Our concern is how are we going to absorb all the new people?"

In Atlantic Canada, meanwhile, unemployment rates remain well above the national average, ranging from 13.5 per cent in Nova Scotia to 17.4 per cent in Newfoundland. But they have fallen across the region this year and are expected to drop again next year. Some private sector forecasters predict that Newfoundland and Nova Scotia will lead the country in economic growth next year.

That may explain Peter O'Brien's optimistic outlook. O'Brien, Atlantic vice-president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, says the region's economy is moving away from its traditional reliance on fishing, forestry and mining. It is gaining strength and diversity from Newfoundland's offshore oil industry, Nova Scotia's textile, apparel and agri-business groups and the increased high-tech companies. "We are achieving a level of stability that means recessions won't be depressing like they were in the past," he says. Even so, he and others concede that chronic high unemployment means many people have not benefited from rising economic fortunes.

Unemployment has traditionally been viewed through a regional prism, but experts say age has become increasingly important in determining how long someone remains out of work. Statistics Canada has found that unemployed people 40 and over have had greater difficulty throughout the 1990s finding work than younger persons. And unemployment can be emotionally and psychologically traumatic for an older person. "They've usually been with one or two employers for a long time, and their identity has been shaped by where they work," says Lynda Rothery, who runs heavily vetted workshops at the Dalhousie Employment Resource Centre for people 40 and over.

Young people between 15 and 35 were among the last to leave the downturn of the early 1980s and they have not shared fully in the robust economic growth of the past three years. Between September 1993 and September 1994, the economy created almost 345,000 new jobs, pushing total employment to nearly 34.4 million. Yet youth unemployment rose from 12.5 per cent in 1993 to 16.7 per cent last year, although it has now fallen to 14.7 per cent, according to the latest results in Statistics Canada. "Young people abandoned the labor market after the 1984-1981 recession," says Paul Dorley, director of economic services with the Ottawa-based Conference Board of Canada. "It was a real lost generation. Youth will once again find it badly in another recession." And the mere thought of next time may make many people shudder, given the country's persistently high unemployment rate and a tight, competitive job market. □



## JOBLESS IN THE '90s

Average annual rates of unemployment, for both sexes, and all ages 15 years and up. The 1994 rate is seasonally adjusted.







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## Business NOTES

### FURTHER CUTS AT CN?

Paul Teller, chief executive officer of Canadian National Railway Co., threw cold water on a plan from the Canadian Auto Workers Union to retrain older pilots to act as the payroll for 3,000 jobs. Not only is the decision "premature," he said, but the possibility of further cuts cannot be ruled out. Teller defended the move as essential to meeting increasing competition from U.S. railways.

### NORTEL STOCK RECOVERS

After recent downward pressure on its stock, shares of Northern Telecom rose 25 per cent. Investors were apparently reassured by the company's third-quarter results, which included earnings of \$241 million, compared with \$150 million a year earlier. The gainers lifted the Toronto Stock Exchange 320 composite index by more than 87 points.

### ABITIBI WORKERS VOTE NO

Even though they have been on strike since June 15, a majority of striking Abitibi workers turned down the company's recent contract offer. The 4,500 employees have closed 10 mills in Ontario, Quebec and Newfoundland. A union spokesman said wage and pension increases were inadequate.

### DUMPING CHAMPAGNE

Seagram Co. Ltd. at Montreal sold its lucrative champagne division, which includes the Mumm and Pommery-Jaeger labels, to French wine producer Soci  t   Financiere des Vins de Champagne. A day later, Standard and Poors Corp. lowered the company's corporate credit rating to triple-B minus from single A, citing concerns about the debt. Seagram's run up buying Netherlands-based Polygram NV—the world's largest record company—for \$26.5 billion.

### PULLING THE PLUG

Monda Canada, a consortium of 10 major financial institutions, cancelled a pilot project in Guelph, Ont., for its electronic cash card. The card, equipped with a computer chip that registers the cash value consumers decide to purchase, is meant to be used instead of money. But the project ended after three key members of the consortium—the Toronto Dominion Bank, the Bank of Montreal and Canada Trust—would not participate.

## The banks hit a rough patch

Two mergers planned by four of Canada's biggest banks are meeting some opposition as many of the participants may have anticipated. Now, a committee of the federal Liberal caucus is reportedly ready to recommend against any quick approval of the deals. The report would recommend that the Liberal government refuse to approve the mergers until there is more competition in the credit market, including a new small-business lender and retail bank. The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce wants to merge with the Toronto Dominion

Bank, while the Royal Bank of Canada and the Bank of Montreal are also pursuing a union.

The Liberal caucus may not be the only stumbling block. Superintendent of financial institutions John Pether has expressed reservations about the mergers, which he believes may weaken the banks because of the costs and disruptions associated with amalgamation. The gang of four could also run afoul of the Competition Bureau, especially over concerns about concentration in the credit card business and bank branch closings.



### BRAZIL'S PLAN

The Brazilian government has introduced a three-year, \$123-billion austerity plan of tax increases and budget cuts designed to prepare the way for a rescue effort from the International Monetary Fund. Some business leaders felt the plan was too strict, and the stock market in S  o Paulo fell slightly. But unions and other business groups assailed the program as too tough.

## Cuts at Air Canada

Air Canada is looking at laying off staff and delaying the purchase of new aircraft as it confronts a third-quarter loss of \$81 million. The third quarter is probably disappointing," said president Loucar Durand. The loss, which follows a 13-day pilots strike in September that grounded the carrier during one of

the heaviest travel periods of the year, will likely make it impossible for Air Canada to record a profit for the entire year. Durand said the airline will look at every aspect of its operations to cut costs. The airline will raise fewer employees on flights are reduced on some routes. As well, the company will probably delay the purchase of up to five Airbus aircraft and will cancel orders in eight more.

## FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Despite signs that key indicators of healthy economic activity are slowing, Canada continues to show resilience to the turmoil sweeping other world economies. Great

domestic product bounced back in August after a four-month slump, rising 0.7 per cent. Still, bad times for commodities translated into slumping corporate profits and a slide in consumer confidence. That, in part, raised fears that Canada could be facing a recession in 1999. On balance, however, forecasters are

### WHAT CANADIANS EARN

Average weekly employment earnings, August 1998

	1998	1997
MANUFACTURING	\$550.00	\$545.00
TRADING	\$545.00	\$540.00
PROFESSIONAL	\$540.00	\$535.00
MANAGEMENT	\$535.00	\$530.00
OTHER	\$530.00	\$525.00
ALL	\$525.00	\$520.00
MANUFACTURING	\$520.00	\$515.00
TRADING	\$515.00	\$510.00
PROFESSIONAL	\$510.00	\$505.00
MANAGEMENT	\$505.00	\$500.00
OTHER	\$500.00	\$495.00
ALL	\$495.00	\$490.00

"The Canadian economy could have been hurt much more profoundly by the slump in world commodity prices had it not been partly absorbed from the impact by the dollar in the U.S. market."

—Toronto Dominion Bank

"Construction managed a one-per-cent advance after a five-month stretch of declines. This is a rare sector of the economy that still has solid growth prospects in the months ahead, as builders make up for slow losses."

—Nasdaq Burns

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# BECOMING DIGITAL IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

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But there is a lighter side to digital technology. More and more people are using digital cameras to take family snapshots, then sending pictures by e-mail to friends and family on the other side of the world. Digital movies on CD-size DVD discs are bringing Hollywood home, delivering cinema-like sound and pictures in our living rooms. Meanwhile, producers of video and computer games are using the latest digital technology to deliver games that have production values comparable to Hollywood blockbusters. ►

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**M**OST OF US TIE UP A LOT OF OUR LIVES IN computers. We use them to write letters, handle finances, send e-mail, store names and addresses, and manage our diaries. It would be nice if there was a way we could take all that information with us when we get up from our desks. What we want is something that fits into a purse or shirt pocket, that we can pull out when we want to look up a phone number, plan the coming week or quickly respond to an e-mail.

The 3Com Corp.'s popular PalmPilot Series from 3Com Corp. is just such a product. There are two models ranging in price from \$349 to \$499. They store your contacts in an electronic address book and your appointments in an electronic datebook and your expenses in an electronic expense-tracker. There is a calculator program for adding up numbers, a memo pad for jotting down quick notes and a to-do list for writing reminders to yourself.

You choose programs by tapping on the Pilot's LCD screen with a small pen-like metal stylus. If you want to jot down information, you write on the screen using an easy-to-learn digital alphabet called "Graffiti."

The niftiest thing about the product is a "cradle" that attaches to your PC. When you slide the PalmPilot into its cradle, information on your PC and PalmPilot is automatically synchronized. If you have entered someone's business-card information into the PalmPilot's address book while you have been away from the office, that information will be transferred to your PC. If you have entered a lunch date on your PC while chatting on the phone, that information will be transferred to your PalmPilot.

You can even transfer e-mail between your PC and the Pilot, so that you can read and respond to messages while you are away from your desk. When you reconnect the Pilot to your PC, your replies will automatically be sent. Or you can get a tiny portable modem (\$189) that attaches to your PalmPilot so that you can send and receive e-mail and faxes wherever you have access to a phone line.

In two and a half years, two million PalmPilots have been sold, according to Michael Mesdowicz, national sales manager of the Palm Computing Unit of 3Com Canada Inc. But 3Com now has a formidable competitor: Microsoft Corp. Microsoft does not manufacture palm-size computers, but its Windows CE 2.1.3 operating system is used in models by Compaq, Everset, LG Electronics, Palmac, Philips, Samsung and Uniden. The first two to arrive in the Canadian market are the Compaq Caspade E-10 (\$550) and Philips Wino (\$559 to \$699 depending on the amount of memory).

Windows CE-based palm-size PCs also come with a cradle that attaches to your PC, plus name-and-address, appointment book and to-do list software. Information in the palm computer is automatically synchronized with information in Microsoft Outlook when you insert the device into its cradle. You can also transfer e-mail from a desktop PC to a Windows CE palm-size PC. As with PalmPilot, you choose options by tapping on the screen with a stylus. But you enter information by tapping letters on an on-screen keyboard, rather than writing with the stylus.

Nell Foggatt, Windows marketing manager for Microsoft Canada Inc., thinks the Windows CE interface will be more familiar to PC users than the PalmPilot interface. But Mesdowicz believes the PalmPilot interface is simpler than Windows CE. PalmPilot can store more names and addresses in a given amount of memory, he adds, and it uses less battery power.

Mesdowicz says there are over 1,500 commercial software programs for PalmPilot, ranging from games to financial calculators. There are 50 add-on programs for palm-size PCs, Foggatt says, but adds, "The availability of applications will grow over time."

Gave Armitage, an analyst with Toronto-based Evers Research Corp., says the PalmPilot is the market leader, at least for now. "Basically 3Com owns that market," he says. "It's going to be a while for Windows CE to be any real threat to PalmPilot." Whether you buy a PalmPilot or Windows CE-based palm-size PC, you will find your new toy a valuable extension to your desktop computer.

## Making Digital Memories

**T**HESE MAY BE REMEMBERS as the year in which digital photography caught up with conventional film photography. Rather than recording images chemically on photographic film, digital cameras record images electronically using a light-sensitive chip called a "charge coupled device" (CCD). Image information from the CCD is transferred to a memory chip or memory card inside the digital camera. When you hook the camera up to your computer, the information is transferred to the hard disk.

Once the image is on your computer, you view pictures on your monitor. You can use inexpensive photo-editing software such as MS Paint (\$49.95) or Microsoft Graphics Studio Picture II 99! (\$79.95) to adjust brightness or color, remove red-eye, and apply all sorts of fun effects. You can then include

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If you can post your pictures on the Kodak PhotoNet or Fujifilm.net service, they will supply you with a Web address that you can share with friends and family, so that they can view your pictures on-line. You can also order professionally-made prints from either service.

You can easily e-mail your digital photos by attaching the photo files to your message. Microsoft's *Outlook Gold* and Microsoft's *Graphics Studio Graphics 99* will let you import digital photos into greeting cards you create on your computer; then send the complete card via e-mail.

The more individual light-sensitive areas, or "pixels," a CCD contains, the more fine detail it can record. Last year, several companies introduced digital cameras with more than a million pixels. As long as you use a good photo-quality ink-jet printer and don't blow the picture up too much, pictures made with a mega-pixel digital camera can look as sharp and vibrant as pictures made with a conventional 35mm camera. With mega-pixel cameras, five by seven inches is about the limit. You can get an acceptable eight-by-10-inch print from a digital camera, but it will look slightly blurred compared to a regular print.

But digital cameras have moved beyond the mega-pixel level. Kodak's excellent DC300 (\$1,999) has 1.6 million pixels, and Agfa's ePhoto 1680 (\$3,145) has 1.3 million. These cameras can produce beautiful eight-by-10-inch prints that compare favorably with conventional photos. Other digital cameras with resolution over a mega-pixel are available from Fuji, Nikon,



Canon's entry in the rapidly growing digital camera market, the PowerShot A5: with it, conventional film and processing become a thing of the past.

Digiscan and Ricoh. Meanwhile, mega-pixel cameras have tumbled in price: Hewlett-Packard's Photomart C20 camera, introduced last spring for \$899, now sells for \$549.

While digital cameras cost more than conventional 35mm cameras, remember that you do not have to pay for film and photo finishing. You can see all your pictures on-screen, and print only the ones you want. Photo-quality ink-jet printers such as Epson's excellent Stylus Photo 700 (\$426) can produce professional-looking pictures, so that you can run off prints whenever you need them. There is no need to run out to the photo store.

## The Movies Go Digital

**A**FTER TWO DECADES AS the dominant home-video format, it is time for the VHS videocassette to make way for a newcomer. The digital video era began last year, with the introduction of the Digital Versatile Disc (DVD). DVD does for movie-watching what CD did for music. Because DVD movies are digital, they are free of snow and speckles. Colors are wonderfully pure and vibrant. And DVD movies have more picture detail than anything you have ever seen on your TV.

Many DVDs include extras such as trailers and directors' commentaries. Many also include multiple soundtracks and subtitle tracks, so you can choose which language you want to hear. That is very useful for foreign movies. And, of course, you can jump from track to track just like on a CD.

While there are still far more movies on VHS, there are now about 1,500 movies on DVD. They include classics and recent hits in every genre: comedies (*Adam's Rib*, *As Good as It Gets*), dramas (*To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Sweet Hereafter*), family fare (*The Wizard of Oz*, *Babe*), foreign flicks (*Shogun*, *Das Boot*), musicals (*Chicago* in the *Real Gone!* set), sci-fi (*2001: A Space Odyssey*, *The Fifth Element*), thrillers (*Psycho*, *The Usual Suspects*) and westerns (*High Noon*, *Unforgotten*).

DVD movies cost \$25 to \$50. You will find them at the Future Shop chain and many record stores, including the HMV Super-

store in downtown Toronto and the Virgin Megastore in Vancouver. A growing number of video stores rent DVD movies. Including many Rogers Video locations.

DVD players will also play audio CDs. Player prices start at \$349, for an RCA RS21DR. For frequent flyers, there is Panasonic's DVD-L10 (\$1,999), a battery-operated portable player with flip-up color LCD screen. You plug it into your television and sound system when you are at home. If you want non-stop movies and music, check out Sony's DVP-CR600 (\$1,099), a five-disc CD/DVD changer. If you have a laserdisc collection, Pioneer offers "combo" models that play DVDs, CDs and laserdiscs. For alternate video quality, there is Toshiba's new SD-7100 (\$1,699). Its "progressive-scan" video output is designed to deliver more film-like pictures when used with TVs with progressive scan inputs, which are available from Panasonic and Toshiba. Meanwhile, audio specialty companies such as Denon, Kenwood, Marantz, Onkyo and Yamaha have players with circuitry designed to maximize sound quality.

Many DVD movies have widescreen video just like the movies. You can watch them on a normal television, but serious home-theatre fans may want to consider a new widescreen television, such as Toshiba's TW40H80 (\$3,799). Most DVDs also have digital surround-sound tracks. If you connect the player to a sound system with Dolby Digital surround sound, you will get sound that is every bit as good as what you hear in a movie the-

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## BECOMING DIGITAL

store. You can assemble an excellent surround-sound system for under \$2,000. Excellent home-theater speakers are available from Canadian brands such as Axiom, Energy, Mirage, Paradigm and PSB, and home-theater receivers are available from every major audio brand.

Just as CD is about more than music, DVD is about more than movies. High-end home computers from companies such as Compaq, Dell, Hewlett-Packard, IBM and NEC now come with DVD-ROM drives. DVD-ROM upgrade kits for existing PCs are available from Creative Labs and other companies. A DVD-ROM drive will also read standard CD-ROMs and most will play DVD movies. On high-resolution computer monitors, DVD movies look stunning. And many DVD-equipped computers have virtual surround-sound systems that immerse you in sound through just two speakers.

The ancestor of DVD-ROM computer software, however, is still limited. There is a DVD edition of the popular computer game *Alvin*, and one of Microsoft's *Encarta Reference Suite*, which consists of an electronic encyclopedia, atlas, dictionary, thesaurus, almanac and dictionary of quotations. The DVD additions of *Alvin* and *Encarta Reference Suite* have superior video content to the CD editions. And there is less disc-swapping. In their CD versions, *Alvin* and *Encarta Reference Suite* each consist of five discs, as opposed to a single DVD.

## Networking Your Home

ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY RESEARCH, close to 40 per cent of homes that have at least one personal computer actually have two or more. And just as the business world discovered the benefits of interconnecting its desktop PCs, so home users are starting to create their own local-area networks (LANs). There are considerable advantages to networking your brand new home-office PC in the den with the older one that the kids use. They can share all the available printers, so the kids can print their homework on the office laser printer, while dad can output the occasional pie-chart on the kids' color ink-jet printer.

Networked PCs can share other devices as well, including high-capacity storage devices such as an Imation Zip drive. They can also share a single Internet connection, and let you play multiplayer games. Unfortunately, getting PCs connected has been awkward, requiring extra wiring and some fairly tricky software and hardware configuration. That is starting to change, with a new generation of networking products designed specifically for home use.

One of the first is HomePro Wireless, from Diamond Multimedia Systems Inc. Add-In Cards are installed in each PC, and communicate with each other by radio over distances up to 50 m. The system uses very high frequencies and automatic frequency-changing to avoid interfering with other devices such as portable phones. Data is transmitted at only about one-tenth the speed of office networks, but that is more than fast enough for home use. A starter kit for two PCs will sell for about \$300. Meanwhile, Intel Corp., best known for the Pentium processor chips that drive most PCs, is working on another approach. In conjunction with the Home Phaseline Networking Alliance ([www.homepna.org](http://www.homepna.org)), Phaseline uses high frequencies to transmit computer data over existing telephone wiring in a home. This allows PCs to simply plug into phone jacks in various rooms, with no effect on normal use of the telephone. According to Dan Secorey, manager of the home networking business unit, Intel has developed a chip that combines Phaseline networking and modem capability. This will be either built into new PCs, or



## Let the Games Begin

Electronic games are starting strong this year, using digital technology to deliver an experience that rivals Hollywood's best special-effects spectacles. Based on the model PCs should particularly attract and attract them, the PC market is growing rapidly. In the growing video game market, they play a critical role. Games are not just for kids anymore. They are for adults, and for kids. Developed largely in Canada, these games are the leading force in the PC market. In fact, they are a leading source of economic growth in the technology industry.

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## BECOMING DIGITAL

AN EXCLUSIVE REPORT

available in a separate add-on card. This should make a Phoneline network even easier to set up than Diamond's HomePcs, at about the same cost and with roughly the same data throughput. Intel is working on a faster version that should be available late in 1998.

Of course, if you are willing to do some tinkering, you can save money setting up a more traditional off-the-shelf network. This requires a network

interface card (NIC) installed in each PC, and enough wire to connect them—both available from any good computer retailer. Going this route, the total material cost to network two PCs should be less than \$150. But you will need to run wire through your home and handle technical issues such as setting up the software and ensuring that you have got the right type of wire for your network cards.

### Set-top Internet

**D**ISPUTE ALL THE WAY, the Internet is still largely the domain of hard-core technophiles. You need a computer to get on the Net and computers are mysterious, intimidating machines. But that is about to change. Within the next year, many of us will access not just the Internet but a whole new world of digital services, as easily as we change channels on the TV. In fact, these services will be delivered right on your TV, via digital set-top boxes, that work just like today's cable converter but incorporate computing power compatible to a desktop PC.

One set-top solution that is already available in most major Canadian cities is the WebTV Plus Internet Terminal INT-1000 from Sony of Canada Ltd. You buy the unit for about \$300, then subscribe to the Internet service for \$34.95 per month. The latter fee includes five e-mail addresses and unlimited hours of surfing.

What sets WebTV apart from computer-based Internet access is its integration with conventional televisions. It lets you use a simple remote control to scroll through seven days of on-line TV listings, select a program using the built-in 128-channel tuner, and even automate your VCR recording.

Hiro Okamura, WebTV product manager with Sony of Canada Ltd., in Toronto, notes that the system also displays related Internet links that enhance your regular viewing by allowing you to get extra information on your favorite programs. "We're taking the Internet experience out of the den and putting it in the living room," says

Okamura. Sony expects to have about 10,000 Canadian WebTV users by the end of 1998.

An even more powerful generation of set-top boxes is coming. Typical of these is the DCT-5000s, from General Instrument Corp., which incorporates advanced 3D graphics hardware from ATI Technologies Inc., based in Thornhill, Ontario. "This thing is basically a multimedia computer—only you get it from your cable company," says ATI manager of set-top box marketing Dan Bies. The DCT 5000s will let you watch TV, browse the Internet and even make telephone calls all at the same time. Picture quality is improved by use of digital transmission to the box, which then converts the signal so it can be displayed on a conventional TV set.

Rogers Cable Systems Ltd. is adopting a different approach, but a similar product. According to Demot O'Carroll, vice president, network engineering and operations, Rogers will begin rolling out the Explorer 2500 digital set-top box, from Scientific Atlanta Inc., in the first half of 1999. By the end of 1998, Rogers will use this same box to start offering Internet services such as e-mail and Web browsing. Further on, it will provide true video-on-demand, which will let you pick a movie from a list and see it immediately, even pausing or rewinding when you wish.

Further out, Rogers is looking at services such as on-line banking and bill payment, and eventually even video telephones. Within the next three years or so, digital technology will have transformed television into an entirely new interactive medium. ■



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The Nation's Business



# Peter C. Newman

## The fruit of the fall business book crop

**E**ach fall produces a new crop of books on Canadian business, not all of them noteworthy, but most of them interesting. Jennifer Weiner's beautifully crafted reconstruction of the Brock House, *Prison: The Dark History of Brock House Prison, 1829 to the 1980s*, is the fifth devoted to describing the trend of the century with *Rene Frenette's Brock House: The Dark Story* of last year leading the pack. But unlike the others, Wells, who covered the Brock House for *Maclean's*, and is now a senior writer with the *Globe and Mail's Report on Business* magazine, goes back to the golden jungles of Indonesia where the scandal took root. Her writing is so evocative, the reader can smell the stinky bars where the dirty deals were struck and feel the pungent humidity of the jungle trails followed by their perpetrators. This is a must read.

In contrast, Steve Cameron's new book, *Blue Trust* (Macfarlane, Walter & Ross), is painful and boring. Her previous exposé, *On the Take*, had a purpose—to dispatch Brian Mulroney to permanent purgatory. The new one is supposed to reveal how big-trust has betrayed her and how, but it succeeds only in making readers wonder why this world tale deserves airing. It's the story of Bruce Verheer, a Kinkadee, B.C.-based tax lawyer who wastes his life trying to become rich and famous, only to end up shooting himself at age 48 in the locked bedroom of his elegant Westwood home. This turns out to be less a tragedy than a relief to worried readers who have just spent \$29.95 buying the book. The only apparent reason for publishing *Blue Trust* is the author's constant repetition of Brian Mulroney's name in one of Verheer's clients. Cameron, editor-in-chief of *Star Weekly* magazine and a contributing editor at *Maclean's*, drops a bomb that the discredited lawyer was an early on secret passions for the unelected PM, but nothing is revealed about the nature of these passions. All we get is a laundry list of descriptions of Verheer's descent into financial and personal ruin. His constant cheating on his wife, Lynne, whose fortune he stole, is only equalled by the betrayal of his law partners. The climax of his many sinuous episodes was his affair with Doris Bailey, daughter of Arthur Bailey, the best-selling author who was one of his clients. Trust, he fears, Verheer abuses Doris shortly before she gives birth to their twins.

A very different and surprisingly compelling narrative is *Isle Man's autobiography, Canada & Japan: Lutzmeier's (Key Porter, \$27.95)*. The opinionated talk-show host who dominates British Columbia's airwaves has earned his title, Dr. No. That he's not just another pretty voice, a former Social Credit cabinet minister, champion by his former, and now opinion-maker, Mar lives up to his self-proclaimed status as a nonconformist revolutionary. "As much," he writes, "my views are distinctly unsuitable to those

who have acquired and now maintain power in government or the community through the present system and its basic assumptions." Mar is ignored by Toronto's *Post* crowd which believes that Canada is what you see from the top of the CN Tower on a clear day. Mar's coming-out message is to read his book, because, like a lot of Mar's notes accurately represent the mainstream of B.C. opinion. Mar's strength is that he has always remained true to himself. One of his favorite issues in this book—and on his radio show—is to pound into the ground the notion that Canada was born as a duality of French and English. In Vancouver, where a walk down any street confirms that its two founding nations are China and India, this is not as heretical as it sounds. Neither is most of *Isle Man's* *Loveless? If Not Mar 1977* careful, he'll be drumming into the Canadian Establishment. Poor guy.

Walter Stewart delivers an equally welcome, but quite different rant in his *Disobeying the State: Disobeying to Disrupt* (Goodart, \$24.95), a passionate appeal for strong central government. The journalist's angry attack on the globalist notion that unless we believe in ourselves as a people of course, we have no right to protest our people and nation, we are doomed. Not so, he insists and ably documents his case. "To begin to reverse the process, we need to look at our history and accomplishments," he writes. "We need to look back at the response rate we built, not so very long ago, when we believed in ourselves as a people of course, common sense and compassion."

In *The Big Score* (Doubleday Canada, \$25.95), the *Globe and Mail's* Jacques McNish starts out with the notion that Robert Friedland is a stock promoter who made one lucky strike: the expensive base metal deposit in Vasey's Bay in Labrador. Now, which contains the most valuable deposit, Friedland's or that of insurance, even when the facts don't warrant it. It's a highly selective bad, in the end, interesting reconstruction of how the \$4.3-billion deal was done. But the impression is that it worked despite Friedland, not because of him. And, yet, this was the fire-X that worked—and it worked because Friedland was meticulously careful about confirming that his company's mineral deposit was real, and not a mountain of Indonesian mud.

The most charming business book of the year is Reuben Cohen's *A Time to Tell*. The Montreal lawyer's twenty-year war was determined to break into the central Canadian business establishment by signing his *Halifax-based Central Trust Co.* into what he hoped would become the country's largest not-banking financial institution. His tale of how he lost his fortune in the process is less interesting than his wicked eye for observing how business works in this country and how he was cheated out of acquiring Crown Trust by its former chairman, Bud McDonald. Cohen, now enjoying semi-retirement, has a gossipy style that is fun to read and easy to swallow.





**VIOLENT ENCOUNTER**  
Joining Adam Nietel (left) with Michael Christie of the Barrie Colts

# THUGS ON ICE

Leagues are cracking down on illegal hits that injure players—but they won't stop the fights

BY JAMES DEACON

**T**odd Fedoruk looks terrible. The Regina Pats' winger is a strapping 23-year-old from Redwater, Alta., with sandy-brown hair and the usual sports-guy goatee, and he would be handsome if it weren't for an angry red-purple welt under his left eye, or the sporting-brute laceration on his right cheek. As for his nose, well, it's a story all by itself. There is a still-bleeding cut on what used to be the bridge, and the smashed clear plastic hockey visor strategically to one side—presumably away from where the telling

gashes were thrown. Being a renowned brawler in Western hockey makes Fedoruk the target of every other team's defencemen and wingers. So it was no surprise that the Lethbridge Hurricanes' stryke-toot, seven-inch enforcer, Mike Vachang, would provoke a fight in the early minutes of a recent game at the Regina Arena and exploit his reach advantage to earn some Fedoruk's features.

Showed up and heading home in a dark blazer, white shirt and tie, Fedoruk admits he got sucked into a fight he should have avoided. He took up Vachang's challenge when another fight was already in progress, and, in justice, combatants in the second fight are automatically thrown out of the game. It was a loose trade for the Pats—Fedoruk is the more accomplished player. So his seventh broken nose in the past three seasons was for naught, and the only consolation was that Regina was saying "I shouldn't have..." he begins, the words trailing away as he shudders through a contraction. "I've got to pick my spots better—I can't help the team if I'm not on the ice."

In roles around North America, hockey is slowly changing. The proof is that a pious tough guy like Fedoruk (thanks he should have ducked a fight. The Western Hockey League is still a rugged circuit—Fedoruk's was one of three bouts in the game. But that is child's play compared with the late-1970s, when there were brawls during the pregame warm-ups, particularly when the Erie (Puck) McLean-coached New

Westminster Bruins were involved. The decade is difficult to particularly event in the NHL, there were 828 fights last season, an average of 0.77 per game, compared with two per game in the 1977-1978 season.

Fewer fights have not made hockey a safer game, however. For one thing, fighting has become more menacing in the NHL, enforcers are bigger, stronger, and better trained in boxing. And for another, bodychecking and stickwork have become more vicious—hits from behind into the boards, slow-dozing ducking an opponent's feet out from under him, and high sticks and flying elbows. In 1997-1998, Anaheim star Paul Reinhart's season ended with a crushing cross-check to the head. Toronto winger Rick Kypreos's career ended with a single punch (page 73). It was, players say, the NHL's meanest season.

That's saying something. Hockey in Canada has long followed the old Conn Smythe dictum—"If you can't heat them in an alley, you can't heat them on the ice." But new players show less regard for the safety of their opponents. It took the stomach-turning sight of Kypreos' unconscious and face-down in a pool of blood, to restart the age-old debate over whether fighting—severely punished in all other major team sports, not to mention soccer—is a whole—should be allowed in hockey. This is more than just a moral and legal issue. The argument goes to the heart of how Canada is developing players at a time when, as the 1998 Nagano Olympics suggested, the country's preeminence in hockey appears to be waning. And it took the lightning hit on Reinhart by Chicago defenceman Gary Suter, sent Suter's laughable four-game suspension—a punishment that, in hindsight, hardly fit the crime—to spur leagues at all levels to reconsider the rules and how they are enforced.

To begin this season, the NHL announced it was introducing a system that, once it has enough injured officials, will put a second referee on the ice to help spot infractions behind the play. And last summer, NHL commissioner Gary Bettman hired former player and New York Rangers coach Colin Campbell as the league's senior vice-president and chief disciplinary officer. In the first three weeks of the new season, 6

**COVER**



**IAN FAVORITES:**  
Junior tough guys  
Fedoruk (left) and  
Vachang square  
off in Regina

Campbell slapped nine offenders, with fines and suspensions for hits from behind and sticks or elbows to the head. It may take a while to get the message through, but last week, Montreal's Dave Munson earned a three-game suspension for a crude elbow to the head of Boston's D.J. Audette, and Mike Ricci and Bernie Nicholls, both of San Jose, were badly cut by high sticks. "The players were allowed to do some things in the last few years," says Campbell, a native of London, Ont., "and when they were given enough rope, they began to hang themselves."

No one, however, is planning to hit fighting. Fists in jostle and minor league arenas are not to a steady diet of fake mayhem, and besides, those operators say they take their cues on rule changes from the NHL. The NHL, meanwhile, says it is already policing the populace. Rules introduced over the past 20 years have eliminated bench-clearing brawls and heated cursing on ice, and players who jump off the bench to trade punches, spit, or challenge in routine brawls get one- or five-minute penalties, and Campbell echoes the attitude towards fighting expressed by the majority in the hockey world: "It's not something we can go and mess with right now," he told Montreal's "It's part of the game that I think the NHL has controlled pretty good, and I don't think it is a huge problem."

Not in addition to the Kypreos incident, there was another last-stand stoppage at the end of the 1997-1998 season. Chicago defenseman Ken Russell, whose helmet had been knocked off while taking it out with Toronto tough guy Joe Dore, fell backwards and cracked his head on the ice. In stunned silence at Maple Leaf Gardens, Russell was carried off, and doctors say he was lucky to get away with nothing worse than a concussion.

Inside the game, there is growing concern for the welfare of the fighters themselves. "One of these days, a guy's going to get the upper hand in a fight and he's going to land a bomb in the wrong place, on a guy's temple or neck, or groin, and boom, someone could die," says Michael Barnett, the influential agent whose roster of clients ranges from top draft picks to upstart superstar Wayne Gretzky. "And then all hell will break loose because everyone will stand back and say, 'How did we ever let this happen?'"

Defiant wily hits by the 15- and 13-year-olds of the Tier I Flyers. Last off the ice after losing to the Rangers at NJ's Prudential Center, the boys are happily exchanging volleys of ball-pup tape and yelling to buddies across the room, drowning out a long-suffering volunteer coach who is trying to get a concussion on which NHL jersey design they want this season. After much hollering, Nashville gets the nod. The expansion Predators are new, and new as cool as the tier I Flyers at the level of professional play. It is difficult to imagine that much of the violent behavior plaguing the sport is learned at that early stage of organized hockey. Shorthair is snarled from behind to skate blade, young players don't take issue of vulnerability, hurting



themselves around like projectiles and, too often, checking opponents headfirst into the boards. With gloves protecting their faces, they crash into one another with elbows flying and sticks high. None of it seems to faze the Flyers who, in power, are allowed to be the toughest for the first time. "Hitting adds the game more excitement," says 13-year-old Mike LaRocca. "I should be able to hit as soon as we start hockey."

But bodychecking can also be intimidating—boys that age can vary in height by a foot and in weight by some 60 lb., and the difference can be perilous to both who are just learning how to take a hit. "You get lots of injuries that you didn't see before," says Flyers' coach Jim Lofgren. Scott McGillivray, who coaches a Tier I power team in Regina, says he benches players for dangerous hits, even if the referee misses the play and fails to call a penalty. "There's definitely a lack of respect for their opponents," McGillivray says. "That's our biggest job as coaches at this level. We want them to hit, but hit cleanly."

Even checks that don't draw penalties can draw blood

#### THE PUNCH HEARD 'ROUND THE NHL

With one swifter blow from the list of three-Bigger Boy Venetianbucche, Kypreos' career came to a bloody end

in the NHL last week. Ottawa defenseman Andreas Dackell sustained a concussion and needed 30 stitches to the face after being crunched into the boards by Philadelphia's hitting Eric Lindros. "The players have lost respect for one another a little," a rival Calgary tail member says. Now in his 20th season, the Great One recalls that when he was still an Edmonton Oil, then-coach Glen Sather made the players practice without he had to teach them to keep sticks down. "We used to protect one another more than we do in this day and age," he says. "You can call it what you want, but things have changed—you never saw anyone go for Jean Beliveau's head or Guy Lafleur's head."

In the stands at the Halifax Metro Centre, the 5,000 or so fans react to every off check and post-whistle confrontation between the two teams. Montreal and the Drummondville Voltigeurs. Ernest Duple, a 33-year-old computer scientist, is hoping for a fight—"It makes the game an adrenaline rush," he says—but is disappointed. "I think the refs were quick to stop the fights, too quick," Duple says. "They should let them go." Another avid observer, Mike Dittella, 46, says fights are inevitable when young men step on the ice. "You put stakes up and a helmet and you turn into a different human being," Dittella says. "It's true."

That, in essence, is one of the well-worn explanations for why fighting is allowed in hockey: that players need to blow off steam because of the unique intensity of the game. Then there is what Claude Ruel, the venerable coach who now scouts for the Montreal Canadiens, said while watching the Pats-Hurricanes game: "Nobody ever gets hurt in a hockey fight," he argues, citing the difficulty of sustaining balance on skates. Another rationale comes from players, who insist the threat of having to fight an opponent helps discourage serious stickwork.

Really? Consider: •In hockey so much more intense than, say, football that participants are compelled to scratch their fists into opponents' faces? Anti-fighting advocates say so and, off the record, many players say so, too. The difference is that in football, anyone who fights is instantly stigmatized and is subject to fines, so it doesn't happen very often. •Is the new blood as one might say, well, Kypreos and Russell are recent recruits. "Don't believe it," says Kypreos. "Guys get hurt, absolutely." Enforcers routinely sustain concussions, broken fingers and jaws, smashed noses, and cuts to the eyes and



HAPPY PLAYERS: Dangerous play is learned at the early stages of organized hockey

face that require stitches. In 1990, Wendell Clark, then a key member of the Leafs, fractured his thumb in a fight and was lost for 38 games. And Detroit's Joey Kocor now has an inch scar tissue on his right hand that the risk no longer has any efficacy.

•Anyone who believes fighting is helping keep sticks down should consult Paul Karpis, not to mention the dozens of players who get clipped for stitches in the face every season. And Sather's cross-check cut Karpis more than just months of headaches and short-term memory loss. It cost the sniper a place on Canada's Olympic team in Nagano, which in turn deprived Canada, which fell one goal short at the gold-medal game, of perhaps its best player.

There is no question fast fighting is part of North American hockey, but it is emphatically not part of the world game, which hockey is increasingly becoming. And the Russians, Swedes and Czechs—who never had to drop their gloves in league—now dominate the scoring race in the NHL. Yet the beating goes on: every team from junior on up has at least two so-called tough guys on its roster. And Don Cherry, who routinely decries the foreign influence in hockey on Coach's Corner, proudly boasts an European from his expansion Mississippi Jackpots of the Ontario Hockey League. At the weekend, the Iceburgh had won only once in 12 tries—until he ran forward in penalty minutes.

So what's the point of all that punching? Bitter-sweetly, progress this year. Brian Robit, the renowned coach of the major-league Ottawa 67's, has guided such crowd-pleasing skill players as Bobby

Smith, Doug Wilson, Mike Peva and Alyn McCauley towards the professional ranks, yet he believes strongly that fighting adds to the game. "I don't question the value in any hockey crowd, getting otherwise dormant customers onto their feet and screaming for their man. In that respect, hockey may be the last live stock our racing—NASCAR fans, the saying goes, pay to see the crashes, not to see the cars go round and round. "If we didn't have fights," Kipreos suggests simply, "the attendance wouldn't be as good."

Fighting is also important to some sponsors and TV networks. Advertising executives say the NHL's most important drawing card is its appeal to the jaded beer- and truck-buying demographics, men between the ages of 18 and 35. They also happen to be the biggest fans of the sport's physical aspects of hockey, including fights. Then there are the sportsbooks on TV, competing for viewers. The Sports Network and CIV

## THE BODY COUNT

Fighting may be the most overt violence in hockey, but it is not the most injurious. Hitting from behind and stick-faulting such as cross-checking, slashing and high-sticking have made the rule an increasingly dangerous play. Following is a sample of players who were seriously hurt—Barny Bepko, Elmer Chabot and Alvin Gault—during the past decade

- |             |   |             |  |
|-------------|---|-------------|--|
| <b>1988</b> | <b>Ron Sutter</b> , Philadelphia Flyers broken jaw and concussion from a cross-check  | <b>1993</b> | <b>Pierre Tardieu</b> , New York Islanders separated right shoulder from a check from behind |
| <b>1988</b> | <b>Memo Lemieux</b> , Pittsburgh Penguins' bruised stomach from a two-handed high stick                                       | <b>1993</b> | <b>Mike Peluso</b> , New Jersey Devils' concussion from a fight                              |
| <b>1988</b> | <b>Jeff Norton</b> , New York Islanders' bruised ribs and internal bruise from a slash  | <b>1995</b> | <b>Rob Ray</b> , Buffalo Sabres' fractured orbital bone from a fight                         |
| <b>1990</b> | <b>Tomas Sandstrom</b> , Los Angeles Kings' fractured facial bone, scratched right crotch and bleeding right eye from a fight | <b>1996</b> | <b>Nick Kypreos</b> , Toronto Maple Leafs' ankle concussion from a punch to the face         |
|             |   | <b>1996</b> | <b>Paul Karpis</b> , Anaheim Mighty Ducks' concussion from a cross-check                     |

Sportsnet, among others, are show clips from virtually every available fight.

The NHL has conducted polls to gauge public reaction to fighting, but its findings are not conclusive. The league does know that players on hockey still sell on TV because it gets its best ratings during international tournaments and the NHL playoffs, when there is almost no fighting at all. Ken Dryden, the last president who is on record against fighting, says no one knows if fighting is scaring away more fans than it attracts, perhaps because no one is asking the right questions. And the league will consider banning fighting only if it gets the right answers. "The determining factor," Dryden says, "is whether more people will watch if the fighting is taken away."

Even if they wanted to, however, the league's New York City-based leaders will not move quickly on the fighting issue. "Traditionally we have been wary of Bettman, a former NBA executive, since he took control in 1993, during he would try to remake the NHL in the image of the hip-hop league league. He did, after all, approve Fox Broadcasting's hated blue- and red-streaked puck for U.S. consumption. But Bettman wants to build the league's fan base, not alienate longtime supporters, so outsiders say that if the place is taking action on fighting, he will do so with a scalpel, not a sledgehammer. "He can't lead with his club on this," said a senior NHL executive.

The NHL may not have to act. There are other forces at play in hockey that are gradually pushing paylines aside. Nowadays, it is not just that there are fewer fights, there are fewer fighters, too. Gettley says highly touted rookies such as the Boston's "my brother, Manny" McElhatton, are now exempt from the rough stuff. "Twenty years ago when I broke in, a kid like that would have had three fights in the first week of training camp," Gettley says. "That's what happened to Mark Messier. Manny's a big, tough kid, and other guys would have challenged him to see what he could do. Now he comes in, gets his name, he's a hard-nosed two-way player, but he's not a fighter, so they leave him alone."

The reason for the change? Dollars, mostly. "The rules have helped, but more than that, it's the money we're getting players now," says Campbell. "Owners don't want to be paying a guy millions of dollars and see him sit out with a broken hand or a broken leg." You need your best players on the ice. That leaves fighting to the specialists, typically players with borderline skills who have made themselves useful with their fists. Today's enforcers dwarf most of the old fighters. "They are as big as NFL linemen, they're tough and they are not there bare-knuckle boxing," Barnett says. "Real boxing stopped that years ago. If you asked Evander Holyfield to step into the ring with another heavyweight and fight without gloves, he'd say you were crazy. So for some reason, we let this continue in hockey."

That does not mean to deter players, for when fighting is a means to a lucrative end in the NHL, long-serving enforcers can take home \$1 million or more in a season. It's how Fedoruk got into the Western Hockey League, first with the Kelowna Rockets and then with the Pats, and it helped get him noticed by scouts who, in addition to skill, look for size and "character"—a willingness to drop the gloves for the cause. In 1997, Fedoruk was drafted in the seventh round by Philadelphia.

Telegen fighters, though, acknowledge the risks. They do what they do knowing that the hardest last season to Repetto and Russell could happen to them. They have to accept that, in many cases, their families won't watch them play because they hate to see



AP/WIDE WORLD



AP/WIDE WORLD

#### HOCKEY IS VIOLENT ENOUGH EVEN WITHIN THE RULES

Ottawa defenseman Duncanson (left) suffered a concussion and needed 30 stitches to the face after being crushed by Philadelphia's leading center (above).

them get hurt. They know that, like Old West gunfighters, they are the target of every tough new kid hoping to make a name. All of that goes with the territory. Then there's the fact that enforcers rarely get to use their plaque skills because they have to concentrate on the grim job of trading punches. "That's why I always played my best hockey during the playoffs," the Leafs' Dryden says. "I didn't have to worry about fighting."

That is itself is a good reason to crack down on fighting. Another, says former old-timer Elmer, is that it disrupts the flow of the game. And besides, the odds most fights are boring—more chiding than punching. Elmer, who plays girls' alone hockey in Regina and watched the Philadelphia game with her parents and her brother's notice team, thinks the Western Hockey League sets a bad example. "My little brother, he tries to fight and stuff because he sees these guys fighting," the sixth grader says, gesturing towards the ice surface. "I find the NHL games are more interesting because there are not as many fights and it's faster."

The players themselves may yet decide the issue. Repetto says the sports fan in him likes to see a good fight as a game, but when he steps back, he gets a different perspective. "Sometimes I just shake my head," he says. "I mean, it's 1998 and we allow fighting. It's part of the game, but don't you think it's kind of weird? I do that outside the arena and I know I'm spending the night in jail." But what to do? There's such a fine line between what's right and what's wrong with fighting, says Gettley. "Why isn't there any fighting in the playoffs? Because everyone is scared they'll hurt their team. Somehow we have to figure out how to make that work the rest of the year, too. Hockey would be a better sport for it."

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# KNOCKED OUT

**N**ick Kypreos never saw the punch that turned out the lights on his National Hockey League career. The ragged Toronto Maple Leafs winger laid his head down, as usual, to battle the New York Rangers' Ryan Vadeboncoch in a meaningless pre-season game in New York in September, 1997. It was a common training-camp sight—a veteran and a minor-league hopeful just trying to fight their way on to their respective teams. But Kypreos lost his balance for a split second, his head came up just enough, and Vadeboncoch's fist smashed sickeningly into the right side of his face. Unconscious, Kypreos fell like an oak, his head bouncing off the ice before settling into a gory hole of blood. Even the notoriously bloodthirsty fight fans in the bleachers reached for Madison Square Garden cell phones. "You have to see something like that," says his then-teammate and fellow tough guy Tie Domi. "It was scary."

The next thing he knew, Kypreos was in the training room where team doctors assured him he'd soon be fine. "Woah and now he's awake! He flew home that night with the team, and the next day, a Leafs spokesman told reporters the injury looked worse than it actually was. The hematoma, however, did not go away—Kypreos was suffering from postconcussive syndrome, and for six months, he was hospitalized and felt dizzy whenever he tried to exercise or read the newspaper. But he recovered in time for his September wedding, and now, the only visible evidence of his life as a fighter is the scars on his knuckles from punches that landed on opponents' helmets and a nose that has been smashed too many times to hold its shape.

Over lunch at a north Toronto health club recently, Kypreos told McMorris he was rising to get that doctor told him he risked permanent injury that returned to the game and suffered another concussion. So Kypreos retired, not with a game-winning goal in his credit, but with regretting anything earlier. He played for nine years in the NHL and won a Stanley Cup with the Rangers in 1994. "I know going to what I was doing," says the 35-year-old, "I made me a lot of money and gave me a lot of opportunities. I would be very selfish if I left the game bitter about it."

Steady guy, that Nick Kypreos. Retired

Me he played—honest, responsible, accountable. At six feet and 205 lb., he was a light heavyweight with more courage than punching power who took on all centers even though he was not among the elite of NHL bad boys, he says like Chicago's Bob Probert, St. Louis's Tony Twist or Washington's Chris Simon. With Washington, Bart Korb, the Rangers and the Leafs, he could be counted on to defend his team's honor in a disputed game. "You're losing badly and the

conscious choice," he says. "The good season door was closed, but I was big enough and strong enough to knock guys down and get noticed. I made that adjustment when some guys who had been big stars in junior didn't even get a cup of coffee in the NHL."

It was not the easiest life. The three seasons Kypreos he sustained in his pro career—late knee ligamentosis, a broken leg and the concussion—all came from fights. And some enforcers simply grow to hate what they do for a living. "A lot of guys have problems, anxiety attacks, or they can't sleep," he says. "This was a game they loved to play as kids, but now they have to go into Chicago thinking, 'God, I've got to fight Bobby Probert because if I don't, everyone's going to think I'm ducking him or I'm scared of him.' It's a really tough feeling. You're not thinking about winning or playing a good game. You're thinking about who you have to fight." To succeed,



A RECOVERED KYPREOS ON THE SPORTSMANLY SET: T would be very selfish if I left the game bitter about it

coach looks down the bench and asks, 'What is someone going to show me something?' he says. "The only thing you can do is make sure the other team remembers you the next time, and the easiest way to do that is to drop your gloves and beat somebody up."

Like so many hockey enforcers, Kypreos in person carries the antithesis of his playing character. (Twist, who throws punches that look like bricks, is a committed fund-raiser and volunteer for service organizations around St. Louis, and Sen. Joe's Todd Ekins has written a children's book.) Articulate and insightful, Kypreos lost the luxury of a job offer from the new all-sports cable channel, CTV Sportsnet when he decided to retire, and now works as a coach-hockey analyst. He didn't expect to be a tough guy—he was a scoring star for his junior team, the North Bay Centennials, in the mid-1980s, but found he couldn't make the jump to the NHL, purely on skill. "So I made a

"You have to like it, you have to want to be a fighter," Kypreos adds. "When I was younger, I had that aura in my stomach, but as I got older, I lost that edge. My passion for chasing my rat and hitting someone subsided."

The rewards, however, outweigh the drawbacks, Kypreos says. "I don't think guys'd be making \$750,000 or \$800,000 a year if they'd picked another line of work," he says, adding, "Now many 35-year-old guys are set for life and can pack and choose what they are going to do? I got paid well. I won a Stanley Cup and I got to play for my home-town team, the Leafs. I could not have written a better script." But it is not a profession he would recommend to a loved one. "If I have a son and he grows up wanting to play hockey, that needs to play that role," Kypreos says grimly. "I would have a very difficult time with it."

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# Bob Levin

## Fight night in Canada: send in the goons

Many moons ago, on a sparkling summer evening by Lake Ontario, a two-story to Canada was waiting for me to get up a leafy residential street. Along came a low-slung convertible—memory fails, but let's call it a Corvette—roaring by at unseemly speed. The Vette whizzed into a driveway, where I'd just squatted back up the street—lost and lost losing. At which point another stroller, a good citizen, called out, "Slow down!" By mistake, on what the ladies, not jugged a young stud, dashed and lurching "What'd you say?" the stud demanded, striding up to the car and slapping him in the mouth, driving him to the asphalt. Which is when the stud's girlfriend popped out of the passenger's seat and, slamming the car door, uttered in instant classic: "That does it," she hissed. "I'm driving!" And off the pair sped, leaving the citizen lying bloody in the street.

Search for the Peasebale Kingdom. Puke and plow? Sure. A post without resolutions and evil was a present of Blue Berries and people who not only cross at the light but wait for it to change? Absolutely. But hey, check it out: In the streets—enough to make an American feel right at home. Oh, all right, so we're only talking one rage due to the date from hell, but this was actually my second due to Canada's dark side.

Hockey was the first.

Hockey I confess I'm a recent convert. Baseball was my first love. Unleashed an early and enduring obsession. Hockey was "not hockey"—back then anyway. It grows on you, though, and suddenly that's my own son in gladiator's gear, and I'm the mascot, dad in the stands. And what a game hockey is: fast and fierce, creative, at once father-son and fluid, demanding remarkable reflexes and skills—which is what makes the dark side so fun. For Canada's game, as played by the best and brightest, is also a sport where tantrums are routine, for fights celebrated, thugs well paid, and vicious amount of nose-broke nose, eye-punching and ambulance-station sidewalk tolerated, if a little frosty upon. And we all know how kids like to irritate grown-ups.

So what's the deal there? What is this happen, and why have I some-one stopped it, and why does anyone buy that third drive? About how punch-ups and pucks are inseparable when, in fact, they're so more inseparable than, say, punch-ups and dating? Anyone watched a Yale or Iowa game? Too young? Then what about the Magna Olympics, where NHLers headlined a rugged, riveting tournament that was also full-time fun, where the toughest Canadian and American boys left without a medal?

But let's examine the fight crowd's articles of faith, which build down to basically two. The first is the Great Release Valve, which

holds that fighting is needed to release all that pent-up frustration and rage and keep it from erupting into far more dangerous slashing and spearing. This is a fascinating bit of logic. Applied to the stud with the muscle car, it goes something like this: good thing he panicked that way often, else Lord knows what sort of real rage he'd have unleashed later with his Vette. Try telling that to the citizens. Or consider bag-time football, a sport at least as brutal as hockey where gym-bomb brawls, crunching and clanging like war machines on every play, somehow manage to abstain from open fatalities. How? Fight and they're out of the game.

Article No. 2 in the Para-Love-It manual. Certainly hockey promotes health with fighting, and the film-as-it looks gloriously so in, making sure you don't miss a single moment of mayhem. And if you're lucky enough to be there too—well, there's no question how nice to fight and

just as they do when misadventures ensue. Such contact with chains or launch flying back to the ground. Which raises all sorts of possibilities. Why not equip hockey players with, say, ball bats or butcher knives or better yet rifles like blattins—hardly ready for the crowd going.

To be fair, the NHL believes it has already cracked down on fighting, banning bench-clearing brawls and limiting the slugs to one-on-one affairs (a bit like Jon Christer spinning that popper spraymore "civility" this baseball body). So how every team has a couple of designated goons who do the punching and how do the poor punchless majority relieve



GARY WATSON/REUTERS/GETTY IMAGES

themselves) while officials stand helpfully by, like police watching mobster-murders one another and figuring, hey, why stop them?

Which only proves that what may be wisdom in police work is simply insanity in sports. Designated goons? Are they serious? You want release, try body-slamming, which is perfectly legal, as long as you like. Want to stop the stickwork, which is not legal—frown upon offside and out of the league. But please, forget the beloved rationalizations. The real reason the hard core support fighting is simple: they like fighting. They like the game, macho and primal and raw, and they don't like Ken Dryden to lecture goals and waste yet an intellectually talking about hitting it. Because fighting, as Don Cherry says, is "the sexiest best rush in the world."

Hey, whatever turns you on. So long as Cherry and his ilk recognize how much fighting turns others off—how many Canadian parents keep their kids out of the sport, how many potential fans in the NHL's promised land, the United States, shake hockey in a dither. And how many players have been mugged and mugged.

Too bad. Great game, hockey. A gang of warring promoters should hold it hostage.

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# Schools on the block

Ontario is bracing for a rash of closures

When Ronney Central School opened its doors 33 years ago, it was hailed as a shining example of all that was right in rural Ontario. That was then. Now, Ronney school sits forlornly in an overgrown field near Lake Huron, its doors locked at the end of August. Its 160 students have been scattered by bus to other communities or are being taught by parents in a church basement. To date, Ronney is the only school closed as a direct result of the province's controversial

new funding formula—a status it is about to lose in a big way. Last week, the Toronto District School Board released a list of 158 public schools it says it will have to shut to comply with the new funding rules. The proposed closures, released in a rage of rhetoric between school board and provincial authorities, represent almost a quarter of the public schools in Canada's largest city. They also mark one of those rare occasions when urban and rural families have become consumed by the same penetrating concern: the loss of a neighborhood school. "This is different communities gone," says Lou Sandilak, president of the Greater Public School Boards' Association. "Parents just love small schools. But the funding formula doesn't."

Changing the Toronto board with de-murrer, Education Minister Dave Johnson says the board can simply sell its big offices and crisscrossed properties instead of



Bowman with student Ashley Leopold, trying to keep the community alive in a church basement

closing schools. But the situation is more complex: the province's new rules calculate spending by dividing an average square-foot-per-student measure into the overall area of a school, a formula that does not take into account gymnasiums, libraries, music rooms or the large corridors of schools built in southern cities. By this reckoning, Toronto is deemed to have 990,000 square metres of surplus space in its existing schools.

A complicating factor is the end-of-year deadline. If boards want provincial help to build new schools in growing neighborhoods, they have to consent to closing facilities by Dec. 31. Otherwise, their existing capacity stays on the books. Those who submit a list of closures then turn over their properties to the government to dispose of

those who do not can sell schools themselves at a later date and keep the money.

This second option may work for cities like Toronto where underutilized schools can sit on valuable downtown property that it has no meaning for rural communities where disposal sales will not yield much and can also rob towns of their only public meeting place. Faced with parental anger, rural districts appear to be backing away from announced plans to close schools, at least for the moment. But they are still paying a price. In Elgin County, one of three rural school districts forced to amalgamate recently with the city of London, teaching assistants for junior kindergarten programs have been reassigned to special needs programs in London, vice French courses in the nearby grades have been abandoned and computer technicians, hired instead of librarians, are no longer on the payroll. "There is a fear we've lost a vision, being thrown in with London," says West Elgin deputy mayor

or Graham Warwick. "Their needs are so heavy and ours don't seem to count."

In Ronney, social worker Bob Shepherd is trying to get the Lambton Kent District School Board to overturn the closure decision, while his wife, Christine Bowman, oversees a home-schooling co-op for 14 kids in the deserted basement of the local United Church. The school, designed as a central magnet for the local farming community, had been home to pickup basketball games on Friday nights, the square-dancing club, Halloween parties and New Year's Eve dances. It is no just "around the corner" from Shepherd's home. "But, you know," he says, "I just don't go by there anymore."

ROBERT SHEPPARD

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## Health



## Hospitals' vital signs

Two groups look at the quality of care in Ontario

What to know the best 100 hospitals? The top 100 best hospitals? Who has the latest MRI technology? In the United States and Britain, that kind of information is widely available. In Canada, there are no such rankings—at least, not yet. But now, in the offices of a national health-care center, hospital administrators are networking the need to review their performance, and to inform as increasingly critical public how they measure up.

This week, two Ontario hospital organizations took major strides towards accountability when they independently issued reports showing how levels of patient care, rates of complications after surgery, administrative costs and other indicators of quality and efficiency vary from hospital to hospital and region to region. "I think the public ought to know more," says Richard Alvarez, president of the Canadian Institute for Health Information in Ottawa, the country's primary source of health data. "That's a significant step in the right direction."

The reports—one by the Ontario Hospital Association, the other by the Toronto Academic Health Sciences Council, representing Toronto's eight research and teaching hospitals—are candid, statistics-laden documents. In fact, both organizations acknowledge that people may criticize them for being more consumer-focused. "The big

concern," says Jeff Laune, president of St. Michael's Hospital and head of the council, "is that people will say, 'You are not measuring the right things. I really want to know how long I have to wait for a certain procedure, or what is the mortality or morbidity rate of a certain procedure.'"

The OHA's hefty 145-page *Hospital Report '98*, just posted on the Internet, compares the province's hospitals, region by region, on their financial efficiency, clinical results and ability to adapt to change. It found that patients are mostly satisfied with the treatment they receive: almost 80 per cent of the 2,600 people surveyed who had received some form of hospital care in the preceding six months described it as excellent, very good or good. However, 40 per cent thought staffing levels were inadequate, and more than 30 per cent believed access to emergency and basic hospital services was fair or poor. The health sciences council's *Performance '98*, a 50-page brochure tucked into the Nov. 2 edition of a Toronto newspaper, compares eight individual hospitals on patient satisfaction (which ranged from 91 to 98 per cent), number of surgical procedures and cost-effectiveness. The two groups found less significant differences among individual hospitals and groups of hospitals.

Measuring the performance of a hospital is an extremely complex statistical task, and must inevitably be conducted in a political marketplace. While many doctors and other health-care workers support the principle of accountability, they worry that statistics could be misinterpreted and reflect unfairly on their reputation. Dr. Hugh Scully, president-elect of the Canadian Medical Association, says that public comparisons have had a "perverse effect" in the United States. One U.S. surgeon, he notes, was called "high risk" one year, so he refused to take on seriously ill patients. "Then, all of a sudden, he becomes a 'low-risk' surgeon."

But Laune insists that all the components in his group's report are "fair and accurate." Both groups consulted health-care professionals and worked closely with a team of University of Toronto researchers. They addressed such questions as how patient satisfaction is an objective, statistically sound can be measured against a cancer ward with terminally ill patients. Brian Baker, head of the University of Toronto research team and an associate professor of health administration, notes that risk adjustment, a statistical technique that takes several variables into account, can make such comparisons valid. In analyzing the data, Baker dropped some statistics, including mortality rates, because they were meaningless or had too much room for error. "That is our reason for coming out this way," says Harry Short, OHA vice-president of public relations. "It is not putting people on the line with information that may not be as good as we think it should be."

Both reports will help administrators more than patients. "This is primarily for hospital use," says Short, who hopes OHA member hospitals will use the information to become more efficient. "We can look at this and say, 'Well, that hospital does radiology tests at a lower cost than we do.'"

Meanwhile, patients across Canada—not just Ontario—will have to wait for the detailed information that will allow them to make informed decisions. The council predicts that racking with care in the hospital sector over the statistical hurdles and privacy issues are unmitigated. Doctor, the patients are willing.

SHARON DOTY DREIDGER



McMillon:  
Reeling his  
limbs out for  
the field just  
like cheerleaders  
on the runway

## Paris and pigskins

**T**odd McMillon is leading a double life: The 29-year-old gets to chase and tackle opponents with the CFL's Saskatchewan Roughriders, then clean up and model for the *Men of GG* magazine and Fila athletic sportswear. "Modeling definitely pays better," says the five-foot, 11-inch, 183-lb. cornerback, "but it has always been my dream to play ball."

Born and raised in suburban Los Angeles, McMillon started playing football in Grade 4. While he was attending Northern Arizona University on an athletic scholarship, a modeling agency tried to recruit him. He passed on the offer because it would have meant dropping football. After graduating in 1995 with a bachelor of arts, he returned home and waited for freelance deals to come in from pro football teams—but the only calls were for modeling jobs. "I guess they like me because of my high cheekbones," says McMillon, who is of Jamaican, native American and Creole descent. "In high school, I was called apple cheeks and I used to hate it. But now, I'm getting paid for those cheeks."

McMillon was modeling steadily—including swing dancing in a current Gap TV commercial—when he was offered a two-year contract with the Regina-based Roughriders last March. "It was a tough decision," says McMillon, who chose the odorous over the runway with the help of his lady, and 6'4-inch, Evelyn Lee. "But I figured that I will still look the same in a couple of years, so I can try modeling full time then." That is, of course, provided his famous apple cheeks aren't too roughed up. "Yes, I work harder than the other guys protecting my face," he says, laughing. "And they treat me because of it."

# People

Edited by  
ZANITA DAPKES

## A folksinger's lament

**A**s her many fans know, folksinger **Judy Collins** often sets personal experiences under the lyrics of her songs. But when her 33-year-old son committed suicide six years ago, it was going to take more than music to soothe the loss. A large part of her healing process was to write about the painful event in her newly released memoir, *Singing Lessons*. "I had to deal with it, and putting it on paper helped," says the 59-year-old who lives in New York City with her husband, Louis Nelson, a graphic designer. "Plus, I wanted to share what I had learned dealing with Clark's death."

The singer's life with her only child had never been easy. She married her first husband, **Peter Taylor**, when she was 19, and gave birth to **Clark** within a year.

For the first few years, the family was happy, but as Collins's fame grew, the relationship with Taylor soured. The constant touring and recording sessions led to a divorce, with her husband gaining custody of Clark. Successful but lonely, Collins—who has released 20 albums in total, all of them top sellers—began detailing heavily and unfiltered hours of depression. After seeking help and sobering up, she regained custody of Clark, then age 9, who started having troubles of his own. He soon began drinking and abusing drugs and of ten ran away from home. He had checked into rehab, got a steady job, was married and had a daughter when he committed suicide. "It was the end of the world," says Collins quietly. "I loved him more than anyone."



Collins: coping with her son's death

After penning her heart and soul into *Singing Lessons*, Collins was concerned about how the public would receive it. But after meeting readers at book signings, she says she need not have worried. "I thought it would upset me to keep talking about Clark," she says. "But what upsets me is hearing the stories of other people's losses. I hope this book helps even a little."





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## Books

# Conjuring Smallwood

A new novel brilliantly evokes an era, if not its main protagonist

### THE COLONY OF UNREQUITED DREAMS

By Wayne Johnston  
(Voyager Canada, 362 pages, \$24.95)

It takes the name of a rebel's home, as Newfoundland might say, to turn Joey Smallwood into a fictional character. The free-fast, search colossal who all but single-handedly swept Newfoundland into Confederation was such an overwhelming phenomenon that even Tolstoy might have had a tough time with him. Smallwood's own command of the language was perfect, he described our opponent as inferior from "toadish, supple and intelligent self-interest." Smallwood's (his wonderfully titled fifth novel). *The Colony of Unrequited Dreams*, Wayne Johnston does not succeed. The Joey he presents as first person narrator is far too self-obsessed ever to have been capable of the exercise it ran, located power that it took to drag Newfoundlanders into Canada, a feat that would be the equivalent today of a small time radio host (in Smallwood's time) grasping Canada into union with the United States.

Yet *The Colony of Unrequited Dreams* richly deserves its nomination for this year's *Literary Prize and Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction*. In Johnston's (*The River Road*), a 49-year-old native of Newfoundland now living in Toronto, never quite gets under Joey's skin, he brilliantly evokes the circumstances that produced him: the old, pre-Confederation Newfoundland, classed and peevish, hungry and tragic, and with "its beauty as chance, as tentatively suggestive of something you could not quite put into words that it could drive you mad."

The opening chapters sweep the reader into the St. John's of the 1950s. Johnston conjures up "the maelstrom of the fish..." so many schoolers find when their sails were down, the harbor was a grave of spar-like masts. Shrimpy etched characters battle on the pages, including Smallwood's manservant, alcoholic father, Charlie—"The house did not seem quite right when he was sober, nor did he seem to know what to do with himself, but would wander around as if he was not entirely sure what a was that sober people did." Then there is the fictional Newfoundland



JOHNSTON: Images of pre-Confederation Newfoundland

Reeves, a former imperial soldier who runs the mid-life Bishop Field College, an institution of British public school that Smallwood attended thanks to a wealthy uncle. Reeves "always walked about with a blackhead pointer tucked like a swagger stick beneath his arm," writes Johnston. "He called Newfoundland the Elms of the North Atlantic."

Above all, there is another essential character, Sheelagh Peilding, one of the most memorable females in recent Canadian fiction. She is a daughter of St. John's quality who becomes a hard-drinking newspaper columnist. Peilding is a neighbor for Newfoundland itself, and also Smallwood's conscience and unfulfilled love. (Though the real Smallwood married a Newfoundlanders Clara Oates, in 1955, he had just one affair of the heart, with the American singer Lillian Zehn,

who he met in New York City in the 1920s.) Described by Johnston as "incredibly ironic" yet also vulnerable, Peilding serves as co-narrator along with Smallwood. Her eloquent diary and her witty history of Newfoundland add to the novel's rich texture.

Less assured is Johnston's handling of Joey's youthful conversion to socialism, which he eventually abandoned for Liberalism and for power. In the author's version, the epiphany happened during a walking disaster when the teenage Smallwood, on hand as a reporter, witnessed a hard-bitten captain casually leading a party of sealers into a terrible storm. It matters not that the real life Smallwood never got anywhere near this famous tragedy. It does matter, greatly, that his real socialist mentor and his idol, the messianic William Ford Cooke, who founded Newfoundland's first laborer's union, is never mentioned.

But Johnston's account of Smallwood's first great political act, a marathon walk across Newfoundland in 1935, organizing railway-section men into a union, is a tour de force. "I carried my suitcase on a stick slung over my shoulder," Smallwood recalls. "It bumped my back with every stride and, about a week into the walk, one of the section men fashioned me a shoulder harness like cigarette girls wore and I walked with my suitcase flat in front of me, and with a look that open up." And the chapter describing Smallwood's relationship with Sir Richard Squires, a corrupt Newfoundland prime minister of the 1930s

who "infected an anticorrupt manner as though his knighthood had been self-conferred," is a masterpiece of social comedy.

In the last quarter of the novel, Johnston loses his way, as if he couldn't decide how he really feels about his hero. Smallwood's first love, the Confederation campaign of 1948, reads almost as an afterthought. Ultimately, *The Colony of Unrequited Dreams* is a very good book that misses being a great one. It's also a marvelous read. That it exists, along with so much else, is a tribute not only to Newfoundland, but to the 50th anniversary of the province's entry into Confederation. Joey Smallwood's children are transforming him "poor, bald rock" into a badge of creative imagination.

SANDRA GWYN

## A hero's highs—and lows

By A. Scott Day  
*CC. P. Putnam's Sons, 582 pages, \$42.99*

By Pierre Lindbergh  
(Simon & Schuster, 200 pages, \$32.50)

Berg, a now-winning biographer whose previous books include a study of Sir Isaac Newton and Edmund Spenser, describes Lindbergh as the first month's superior. He was a simple man with simple tastes who saw life as something best controlled by rules, making lists and codifying everything possible. That approach worked on his history-writing: Berg recounts, Lindbergh's obsession with reducing baggage to a minimum meant that he "refused to take any optional equipment, had torn unnecessary pages from his notebook, and had returned the resources from his cousin to save weight."



## Two books shed light on fame's toll on the first media superstar

Later in life, Lindbergh's glowing analysis of an asset, especially when coping with personal tragedy. In 1932, Charles Jr., the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne Morrow Lindbergh, was kidnapped. He was later found dead and, in a verdict still debated (though conclusive that it was probably correct), Charles' coroner Brian Richard Thomsen was found guilty and executed. Lindbergh's dismay at the negative aspects of his celebrity, and the trauma he suffered as a result of his son's death, helped lead him to the most cherished aspect of his life: his embrace of his German ancestry in the 1930s, prompting him to encourage the United States from abroad to join the Second World War and to lead the world. Lindbergh was horrified at what he saw as the breakdown of morals and law enforcement at home, the Nazi regime in the 1930s, and the Second

h books make the same huge talents—and fail at the scope of most people's capacity to arouse actual accounts of disappointment. History is made by it is up to others to interfere. In Lindbergh's case, reveal to the task.



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McLean: I see the good in people and in things—to me the glass is always half full

## A happy-tales wag

Stuart McLean gathers his papers and begins to make his way to the door of a cafe. As he passes a table over, he dips his elbows into the books displayed across his table. In this quiet Toronto hangout, the radio's voice booms, joking sleazy patrons as they hover above steaming cups of cappuccino. "Hey, Mister McLean," he harks, beckoning. "I've got something to tell you." McLean, a 50-year-old writer and broadcaster, is unperturbed by the abrupt request. He wanders dutifully over to the strange, ready to absorb whatever quirky tidbit is on offer.

Instead, McLean says as he returns, the man "just wanted to tell me his cousin likes to see an McLean." The broadcaster, known on CBC Radio's popular weekend show *The Vinyl Cafe*, a mix of music and humorous tales, And the stranger's interruption is routine for McLean, who gathers stories and anecdotes effortlessly, incorporating many into his program. In fact, it is his talent for collating humorous material from everyday life that has made the four-year-old *Vinyl Cafe* a success, and McLean a best-selling author.

McLean has racked up sales of more than 100,000 copies for three earlier books: *The Monogamous World of Stuart McLean* (1989), a compendium of his work on a CBC Radio journal, *Witness News* (1992), a foray into small-town Canada, and *Stories from the Vinyl Cafe* (1995), his first work of fiction.

and a spinoff of the radio show. McLean's newly released fourth book, *Howe from the Vinyl Cafe* (Fiction, Simon), is another collection of stories centering on Dave, owner of a Toronto second-hand record store, his wife, Morley, and their two children, Sam and Stephanie. McLean chronicles their course as they navigate a series of domestic tribulations ranging from cooking Christmas turkey to struggling with unruly teenage cottagers. The stories are clearly written, infused with homespun aphorisms, and unashamedly cheerful. They are bereft of the violence, sex and anguish that characterize much modern fiction.

"It's who I am and what I find comfortable with," says McLean. "I see the good in people and in things. To me, the glass is always half full. You ensure that Dave isn't going to get shot or shoot someone or hit somebody." McLean's optimism is the through line in a career that begins in 1974. Born in Montreal, he found a job as a researcher on CBC Radio shortly after graduating from St. George's University, now Concordia. Years making radio documentaries developed his ear for speech and his sense of place, skills that he uses to advantage in his prose.

McLean joined *Morningstar* in 1983 and distinguished himself as a correspondent who pulled comedy from seemingly banal situations without humiliating his subjects. He won a gentle posterity when *global outlook* kept him open to humorous possibil-

ties in one segment. McLean went to the busiest phone booth in Toronto and interviewed people as they exited. This journalist taking expeditions led to interviews with a convicted bank robber and a prostitute who recalled her favorite job—posting as a doctored gay man's girlfriend on Christmas Day. McLean, now a faculty member at Ryerson Polytechnic University's journalism school and director of its broadcast division, says his *Morningstar* years taught him that "everyone has a story."

Many dub McLean Canada's answer to American writer Garrison Keillor. While both authors share a background in radio and a love of domestic tranquility, McLean is not an American knockoff. McLean's yarns spring from a Canadian tradition that dates back to the 19th century and Thomas Chandler Haliburton's *The Clockmaker: The Story and Songs of Sam Slick of Sheldonia*. Published in the 1850s, Haliburton's stories convinced McLean to see the humor through the eyes of American opportunists Sam Slick. The tales, though riddled with the racist stereotypes of the day, promoted an earnest belief that actions rather than complaints would improve local life, and that earthy hard work was a chief moral good.

But unlike Stephen Leacock and M. Q. McLean, Haliburton's earlier 20th-century literary descendants, McLean has no political agenda in his work. "His stories are meant to entertain, not to be analyzed," says Andy Waters, a professor of Canadian literature at Dalhousie University in Halifax. "He celebrates personal traits and behaviors that people deal with as the story."

At the *Vinyl Cafe*, happiness is the result of individual effort. Dave, for example, works hard at being a good husband. "Any body can get divorced," says McLean. "It takes great imagination to stay married." McLean himself is married, has three children and lives in downtown Toronto. Yet he diligently strives to make Dave and family distinct from his own tribe.

Many listeners and readers, however, see themselves reflected in McLean's fictional family unit. The characters in *Howe from the Vinyl Cafe* are unassuming and unpretentious. Canadians like to ascribe to themselves. They indulge in quintessentially Canadian activities, such as cottaging and snow shovelling. McLean says these Canadian ingredients are not a goal but a result of his origins. "When I hear that my work is 'Canadian,' I just go, 'Giddy! It's like I'm a fish, I swim in Canadian waters. It's just where I live.'" Maybe so, but McLean's descriptions, such as Morley recalling her father stealing milk in order to make a lucky yard skating rink in the cold southern Ontario climate, conjure up northern scenes. They fly by as fast and unapologetically Canadian as, well, goose heading south for the winter.

ANDREW CLARK

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## Films

### Gallows humor

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL

Directed by Roberto Benigni

The prospect of making a comic fable about the Holocaust sounds inane, to say the least. And the risks involved are part of what makes this Italian tale such a sweet attack of irony and pathos. With *Life Is Beautiful*, Roberto Benigni—writer, director and star—defies remarkable odds in asserting the power of imagination in the face of unspeakable horror. Playing a Holocaust victim who would his wit as a satirical weapon, and as a shield to protect his young son from the trauma, Benigni locates that line in the heart where tears of laughter and sorrow merge. *Life Is Beautiful* won't send the audience to work at film festivals in Toronto, Vancouver and Cannes. It is one of those rare certified pictures that should get Oscar nominations in the major categories—this year's *Il Postino*.

The story falls into two parts. The first half is a dizzy romantic farce. Like Charlie Chaplin with a surreal sense of Melior, Benigni closes his way through Mussolini's Italy to the rule of Goebbels, a Jewish waiter at a Tangier Whiteaway sleight-of-hand, he courts Dora (Nicoletta Braschi, the director's wife), wooing her away from rich dad of a dance. Meanwhile, like a court jester poking his luck, he mistakes fascism at every opportunity. For a while, the movie plays like an anti-orientation show, mixed with a sad too much whyn'ty. But the first serious note of tragedy—the appearance of a horse painted green and covered with anti-Semitic slogans—changes everything. All the harmless frolics leading up to it suddenly seem tragic.

Cut to several years later. Guido owns a bookstore and is married to Dora. Without warning, he and their five-year-old son, Giosue (Giovanni Caporali), are shipped to a death camp. Dora joins them voluntarily. Guido bravely improvises to protect his son, persuading him that the whole concentration camp ordeal is an elaborate game: the boy who does the best job of hiding from the lead men in uniforms and getting



Benigni (left), Giosue: tears of laughter and sorrow

up with the hardships will win the prize.

There are some precious moments—initially a scene in which he "translates" the absurd orders of a German guard for the boy's benefit, turning them into a series of rules about hallmarks and winks. But Benigni never makes light of the Holocaust, only of the fascist logic that goes into it. And, paradoxically, by playing a character who "denies" the Holocaust, he reaffirms its reality.

Some say that the bitter-sweet redemption of the movie's end too sentimental. But Benigni mixes audacity and compassion with a depth of conviction that Hollywood could never connect. He earns his right to be a crowd pleaser. Also, it is worth noting that he took his title from Leon Trunkin, who wrote he could not help thinking that "life is beautiful" even as he waited in a bunker for Stalin's soldiers to kill him. With eyes courageous, original and heartbreaking, Benigni proves him right.

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# THE LESSONS OF WAR

## SPECIAL REPORT

Old soldiers revisit the battlefields that helped forge Canada's identity



The rain has come to northern France, the kind that arrives in late autumn each year, falling in cold, heavy sheets. They sweep in from the English Channel, drive across 100-year-old Flanders, and pour over the dunes, chasing the low chalk hills and leaving river valleys of the region into a vast sea of mud. The towns and villages that dot the plains on both sides of the French-Belgian border were once capable of making strong emotions in many Canadians. Ypres, St. Julien and Passchendaele in Flanders. Further south, across the French frontier, Beaumont-Hamel and Arras. More recently, Courcellette, Gueudecourt, Cambrai and, especially, the 14-kilometre ridge that rises 61 metres above the quiet hamlet of Vimy. More than 60,000 Canadians are buried in and around these towns, 30,000 of them in unmarked graves. Most perished at the thick mud where they now lie entombed, casualties of the great conflict that, when it began in 1914, was supposed to be the war that would end all wars.

Much has changed since the First World War drew to a close on Nov. 11, 1918, the civil autumn day when the armistice ending hostilities was finally signed. On the old battlefields in northern France and southern Belgium, few traces remain of the terrible destruction wrought by a concentrated assault of nearly five million men and machines. Superhighways and high-speed rail links now crisscross the undulating plain. Church steeples rise from graves of beech and willow, marking the sites of once devastated towns and villages. But

here and there among the fields of sugar beets and cloverstraw, still, there are grim reminders of an earlier epoch, when human savagery bathed the rolling hills of Picardy and Flanders in blood. Close to 2,000 military cemeteries and wartime memorials are scattered across the region. Twelve of them commemorate the 96,000 Canadians who never returned home from the war, most died one of every 10 young men—and some women—who donned a Canadian Army uniform to serve in Europe.

Eighty years later, there are few remaining survivors—no more than 800 Canadian veterans of the trenches of the Western Front. Paul McInnes, a tall, spry 98-year-old, is one. The former Montserrat, now resident in Nepean, Ont., just about his age to join a unit of the Canadian field artillery when he was only 16. On arriving in Picardy in 1917, he was struck by the utter desolation that greeted him. "It's hard to believe now, but back then, the whole place was just mud," he says. "Not a single living tree, not one blade of grass in sight. Just mud as far as the eye could see."

This week—as Nov. 4—McInnes will travel to France as part of a delegation of 17 First World War survivors who are accompanying Veterans Affairs Minister Fred McFadden on a pilgrimage to the old battlefields to mark the anniversary of the 1918 armistice. Walter Landon is another not joining the tour. Now 96 and a resident of the veterans' hospital in St-Amand-de-Bellevue, Que., Landon shared his age, also at 16, to join the Canadian Army's Alberta-based 10th Infantry battalion. He arrived at the front in 1915, in time to take part in

the murderous Battle of the Somme, which British and French soldiers suffered 621,000 casualties at the expense of the month to advance four front lines by 10 km. Landon survived the slaughter, but only barely. "I was in the trenches when the man beside me asked for a smoke," he recalls. "I handed him my pipe. The next he had it, a shell came in and blew him away. Not me."

Landon went on to fight at Vimy Ridge, where Canadian troops helped change the course of the war, and Cambrai, when the first massed tank attack in military history occurred. He harbours lasting sweet memories of his wartime experience. "It was tough but also not tough," he says. "You were in knowing that some of you would get hurt and that's what the war was." Despite his years, Landon has never been back to France. And he is not at all sure of his reaction when he finally returns. "It will probably hurt," he concedes. "But it won't let me until I get there. And I might not. Who knows?" Of one thing, however, he is quite certain. "I wish the young people in this country knew more about these battles where so many of our forefathers died. They should know what happened over there."

On that point, Landon will get no argument from the Canadians who lead the country's war memorials in France and Belgium. There are not just a host of them—a pair of half-acre outdoor arenas and a rotating display of 17 Canadian war-torn towns that serve as models of the opposing Vimy Ridge memorial and the world's only trench connecting—Newfoundland's war dead 30 km to the south at Beaumont-Hamel. But what they lack in numbers, they make up in enthusiasm.

"I love this job," confesses 21-year-old Sebastian Himmelfry of Vancouver, an heir third three church tour as a Vimy guide while managing at the same time to earn a political science degree from the Uni-

### YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW WHAT HAPPENED

The Vimy memorial to Canada's fallen guides on the ridge, 80 years after the end of the war that made its mark on Walter Landon (right) and Canadian soldiers returning from the battle of Courcellette in 1918



versity of Ottawa. "There's one thing that really bothers me," he adds, taking shelter from a driving rain beneath the towering Vimy monument. "There's all this talk of home about Canadian identity. Well, what happened right here 80 years ago helped build that identity. But there's a real lot of Canadians who don't know anything about this place. Many don't even know it exists."

It is certainly true that Canadian troops achieved much more than a tactical victory when they won their triumph in blowing a hole in the German line on Easter Monday, April 9, 1917. The assault marked the first time in the war that all four divisions in the Canadian Corps—100,000 troops in all—had fought together as a single unit. When those troops drove the Germans from the ridge three days later, they accomplished something that had evaded successive attempts by other Allied forces. The Canadians captured more ground, more prisoners and more guns than Vimy did any British offensive in the previous 20 years. The victory helped turned the tide of the entire war for the Allies. In Europe, it won for Canada a separate place at the table at the Versailles peace conference. And at home, it united a country then barely 50 years old, sowing the seeds of an emerging nationalhood.

The achievement earned a stiff price, however, paid by the 3,506 soldiers—out of a total Canadian casualty list of 10,603—who sacrificed their lives to take Vimy Ridge. It is, perhaps, one reason why the battlefield continues to draw Canadians. The day, by the end of October, 55,000 guests, including 2,500 Canadians, had visited the massive monument on top of the ridge, toured the tunnels and the trenches that still exist below, or simply strolled beneath the 11,200 trees that have been planted at the site, one for each Canadian still officially listed as missing, presumed dead, in First World War action across all of France.

Many of the visitors are schoolchildren, the vast majority from the United Kingdom. "We get hundreds of British kids here," says Clement Chamberlain, the 59-year-old retired army major who has been resident director of the Vimy memorial for the past seven years. "It seems to be a regular part of their curriculum. 'Too bad we can't do the same for our own kids.'"

At least one Canadian school is planning to do just that, even if the students involved can hardly be classified as kids. Beginning next March, 400 adults enrolled in the public in-service program at Queen's University's school of business will be touring both the First and Second World War battlefields in Europe. "The idea is to remind our students, all of whom are working ourselves, of Canada's close ties with Europe," explains Don Macnamara, director of the program for public-sector officials, as he tours the trenches at Vimy. A retired Canadian air force brigadier-general, Macnamara has recruited three former Canadian officers to square his students around the world. They include retired army lieutenant-general Ernest Brown, retired army captain Robert Thomas and retired air force colonel Gloria Brown. "There's quite a few lessons to be learned over here," says Brown. "A lot of Canadian blood has been spilled in Europe."

Not least in the chalk uplands and winding river valleys of Picardy and Flanders. When the First World War began, the British empire was in much of a colony world, populated by fewer than eight million people. The entire population army consisted of 3,130 regular soldiers. By the time the war ended four years later, it had expanded into a force of 516,000, including more than 1,000 nurses. Canadian casualties in the war would reach 236,000, fully one-third of those in uniform. The fields where the wounded fell may no longer bear the scars of conflict. And the names of these battles long ago may now lack the power to move many people deeply. But the graves are still there, embedded in the enduring mud, reminders of another time.

PHIL LOFFE/REUTERS (2)

# A literature of stone

BY DOUGLAS HOW

On one Remembrance Day in the '70s, I went back to my old home town, Dorchester, N.B., population about 400, and marched with the veterans in the war seasonal. And the experience still says things to me. One is that although we pledged to remember the 41 "billion," the words were true only in a limited and symbolic way. For their names were already largely forgotten in the village itself. Yet in another sense, it struck me that the memorial's wide center went beyond this act of a phenomenon to be found from coast to coast, and gloriously on France's Vimy Ridge. Such memorials are unique as links and tributes to our past. The names were carved in granite in the '30s and '40s so that what 100,000 men gave their lives for—and what that meant to their country—would continue to matter.

To be contrary, I say another haven's centered in a way that would do much to help make Canada more than the equal of each of its parts. Instead, there has developed a parallel—ironically, this a country that has twice waged massive wars known going back to being a colony with a profound distaste for war itself. As one professor put it at a recently attended Remembrance Day ceremony at Mount Allison University: "Being lost, it's best forgotten." This parallels its coincidence with historian A.R.M. Lower's notion: "In every generation, Canada does have had to rework the miracle of their political existence." He said that 50 years ago in Calgary at Banff.

Now, historian J.J. Groulx says the situation has taken on new dimensions. In his book, *Who Killed Canadian History?* he says that for various reasons the history of the Canadian experience "has all but disappeared from the school curriculum" and the university situation is just as bleak. "Somewhere, somewhere, we have lost our way," he says. Even the Second World War has become, except for veterans, only a day's memory, and "once their remembering presence is no more," Groulx suspects, Remembrance Day services will lapse—as if effect leading credence to Lower's remarking thesis.

Even with our wars, that process went on. The first was more that history through the April, 1947, victory on Vimy Ridge crystallized a feeling among the soldiers that they were more than Alibertos or Nova Scotians—that they were Canadians. And thus, it is said, modern Canada was born. Even so, Canadians overseas in the second war seemed uncomfortable when asked why they were there. I can remember hearing only one man answer in respect words: Jack Calder had narrowly escaped death as a flying ace pilot,



**BEST FORGOTTEN?** For many, what Calgary's memorial stands for doesn't matter much.

## Why Canadians must stay in touch with a heroic past

but, he felt, if given regional power it got a new construction policy, and it probably did fighting men. Big and large, in the crackle, Canadianists there, made their concerns not in a blast of fervor but by dogged resolution.

Twenty months later, when a bearded and desperate British soldier stood in front of the defense of Hitler, one episode reflected how dogged that resolution could be. On April 30, 1941, the small Irish Nevins was sunk by a German U boat and 85 of the 100 Canadian servicemen were lost en route to Britain to join the thousands already there. At least five, I've discovered, were aboard because they felt that's where they should be. They included an officer and an NCO who had insisted on going into combat. The three others were soldiers, one a sergeant, who wanted so much to get there that, quite separately, they showed up on the ship. Three of the five were lost.

Years later, I came across a 1945 publication by Dorchester High School students. It took pride in former students overseas, but pr-

and one night in London friends told him he'd done more than his part in battle. Calder responded with passion that Hitler represented an evil that could only be destroyed by fighting, and that he would. He died in his late 30s, in an RCMP plane striking Hamburg in July, 1944.

But understanding Canadians more often requires the interpretation of silence, and no more so than in considering our war memorials. They reflect the fact that the veterans of the second war grew up among the violence of the first and were often baffled by those who had fought abroad who wouldn't, perhaps couldn't, talk about the experience. Their Canadian Corps had created legends on the Western Front, but certainly in Dorchester they were surprised at the young in a picture of war in glory.

And the veterans themselves shared a deep hope that soared through the Depression '30s, a doomed dream that war could be wished away.

In 1939, the rapacious Hitler took care of that, and Britain's great prime minister Winston Churchill is only one of a number of people who called Canada's response magnificent. Yet there, too, you can face baffling silence about why we went to war at all. There is no question that Nazi Germany fostered human freedom, yet the neighboring United States, the champions of freedom, stood aside for more than two years. Indeed, in the whole Western Hemisphere, peopled by various European stocks, only Canada went to war in 1939. French-speaking Quebec was hardly enthusiastic.

## Patrician has cancer, but she doesn't look it.

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marily stressed the link to the British Empire, equating one speaker at an Empire Day audience as doing "what a great and glorious thing the Empire really is." That seemed odd to me because Dr. Carleton is now overseas were proud above all of being Canadian. The "Canada" inscribed on their shoulders were odd, but I suspect they'd have felt naked without them.

In short, both successful rework Canada. The first crystallized national pride. The second confirmed it. When peace returned in 1915, neither British film would with "No country in the world was more confident than Canada, or had better cause to be." The consensus the nation had come of age.

Then on other grounds, Canada became internationally recognized as never before through the United Nations, NATO, peacekeeping and Cold War policies—even as anti-war sentiments resurged and joined other forces in creating a country that eventually seemed to have a variety where a heart is supposed to be. Small wonder that it saddens aging veterans to see this. To

hear that Canada has no heroes despite the first war's remarkable air men, Billy Bishop and Billy Barker, despite the fact that ordinary men to end Canada's low status from the both of the Canadian Corps, despite the fact that the second war produced a hero—the "King of the pathfinders" in Johnny Fergusson, a "hero of Malta" in fighter pilot George (Duke) Bevington, a "genius of the Admiralty" in navy officer Tom Puller, and despite the fact that French-Canadian soldiers played heroic roles with the French Resistance.

Yet four years ago, when I went back to Italy with a group of veterans, I saw something both memorable and revealing. The veterans, selected from units at the coast, were accompanied by young newcomers forming a color party for war ceremonies and by some teenagers there as observers. Canadianists quickly flowered among the veterans, and the spirit sprang. You'd see them watching the young servicemen take poses with their uniforms. See them and when the young men's hair blossomed with Maple Leaf buns after an Italian was told to say they were American. The young men in turn, like the boys in the states, were taught to see some were over seas on grandmothers. And when they all roared out G Canada at a luncheon on once-bloody Coriano ridge, I thought my



**THE EMOTION IS FAR FROM DEAD.**  
An ex-serviceman places a wreath in Saskatoon Memorial Cemetery.

hair would stand on end. Then as we landed back in Canada, one of the teenagers looked out and thought aloud, "My God," she breathed, "I love this country."

That trip confirmed my long-standing belief that first emotion is far from dead. Greatness says one way to start making it what I could and should be to teach much more Canadian history in the schools and universities, to lay down national standards for what is taught. How you can imagine of those heinous obstacles so typical of Canada—the Fathers of Confederation made education a provincial responsibility. With schooling an integral part of provincial aspirations, it's often hard to see Canada as a whole.

Which brings up one final implication of our war memorials, and perhaps the most important of all. They didn't just happen. They sprang up not by government fiat but through thousands of community efforts. They are a remarkable eruption of public will. They are a literature of state, and surely this message need not apply to our nation. For what it says is that, if arranged, there are almost no limits to what Canadians are capable of doing together, as a people.

*Deborah Howe went overseas as a Cape Breton Highlander in 1942, then worked as a war correspondent for The Canadian Press in Britain and Italy from 1945 to 1947. Her book, One Village, One War, 1914-1918, relates what those 32 years meant to this home town, Dorchester, N.S.*

## A VET'S PSYCHIC WOUNDS

**P**oor the poor soldier. He comes home from the wars with his physical and psychic wounds, and as often as not encounters a society that acts as if it no longer needs him. This personal theme gets a new twist in Jack Hodgins's absorbing sixth novel, *Broken Ground* (McClelland & Stewart). The Western author has focused on a group of First World War vets who find themselves in the isolated backwoods community of Portageau Creek on Vancouver Island in the 1920s. The government has given them land, but before they can farm it, they face the backbreaking labor of removing thousands of huge, jagged stumps left by the logging industry. Forest fire rages down from the surrounding hills like so many demonic Valkyries. And worst of all, perhaps, they must deal with their own festering memories of the trenches, that in an instant can sink them in despair.



At the centre of the novel, Matt Pearson, a retired officer, cannot stop thinking about a soldier in his former company who was mistakenly shot for desertion. When a forest fire plunges his own family into tragedy, the guilt that haunts Matt grows unbearable, and he must search for redemption. Hodgins, author of *The Invention of the World and The Resurrection of Joseph Boone*, skillfully balances Matt's story with a lighter one about Wyatt Taylor, a Viny Ridge veteran who has ridden his horse across Canada in search of a woman who has killed him. Their courtship—watched and humorously commented on by the entire community—has a genial, mythic quality and opens a vein of optimism through the book. *Broken Ground* sometimes gets lost in its own rambling discoveries, but its deep empathy with the people of a long-ago generation makes the Great War and its aftermath seem as fresh and disturbing as this morning's news.

JOHN HARRIS

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# Allan Fotheringham

## Just in: media warlords bash each other

**T**here are confusing times for that poor, persecuted creature known as the newspaper reader. Much sought-after, of course, by advertisers and publishers, this pitiful consumer for once has been pushed into the shade.

In a sudden outbreak of newspaper wars, the tycoons and media warlords at the top of the food chain have grabbed the spotlight. Conrad Black has launched his new national paper and within days the rich and fat but frightened Toronto Star unleashed a headline takeover grab for *The Toronto Star* empire and, well, the lowly reader can hardly find the sports scores for all the headlines screaming about what is going on among the fat cats.

There is all this trembling in the press clubs after the advent of Conrad, the Darth Vader of Canadian journalism. Actually, all he is doing is bringing back to the world of scribbles the old tradition of newspapers as tribunes of expressed political views.

In Sir John A.'s day, every sheet was clearly a Grit instrument of propaganda, or a Tory one, equally shouted and told in its news. Conrad has just spent his apprenticeship as such a media lord in London, where there are 11 national dailies and everyone knows their propaganda before they pick them up.

In 1945, the pro-labour London *Daily Mirror* had a circulation of five million, a figure surpassed only by *Panda*. Its star turn was a brilliant and imperious column written by "Casualties"—actually a meek and mild man by the name of William Connor. Casandra Black was credited with the swift passage of defeat of the man who saved Britain, Winston Churchill, since the column was plugged into a population sick of money, suffering, rearing the class system and all that the poorer Tories stood for, and warred, poverty, national health and a new government. One newspaper gave them that.

All Conrad is doing is declaring the devil and spreading his bene. The first edition of his *National Post* featured an "exclusive" that Ralph Klein had agreed to address next spring's budget of the United-Right party—shocking news that did not really rank up there with John Glean.

The next edition carried a long front-page by Stephen Harper—



the bilingual newspaper to Presto! Manning—sternly telling the new Tory leader (who has been rightly re-elected Jacques Chirac) to get with it and learn a lesson on the Reform, if this contemptible Liberal snail of *Sunpaper* dare to ever be defeated.

Suddenly, the giants were swarming each other over the head with pillows, just like at a sorority party. The *Star's* John Hunsicker, boss of the most shamelessly partisan Liberal sheet in the land, was writing to the expiring *Financial Post* complaining about a Conrad book review that ran a concise 1,800 words. And Conrad was writing to *The Globe and Mail* complaining about a Rick Salutin column that was about—surprise!—Conrad.

That is good stuff! Media warlords bashing each other in public? We love it, better than the last Eric Lindsay bodycheck against the glass.

Publishers are always arrogant. Otherwise, why be a publisher—having to attend all these cocktail parties with ditzy ads, advertisers. Your brain is used to work for a publisher of *The Vancouver Sun*, whose orders, while writ in stone, were somehow more flexible.

While telling in the business department (with one Barbara McDougall), several scribbles once spent two days figuring out physics and elementary engineering to explain why the swimming pool at publisher Don Croome was losing water slowly. It was, it turned out, a crack.

When Spatznik went up, the eccentric genius Croome—who inherited the paper at age 29 from his father who was a Jewish brick dealer in his early 50s as his two-hour newspaper sold—ordered *Sun* photos to the top of Croome-owned 1,100-metre-high Grouse Mountain in the belief that they would be much closer to the Soviet satellite as it passed over.

The obnoxious photos took a bailout pen, attached a streak across a negative, and the *Sun* had a "world exclusive" as Spatznik passed over Vancouver.

Conrad, of course, would shoulder at such things, not to mention when *Sun* editors sent out stunning fashion editor Marie Monette to Cuba to get the first interview with Castro (she got it) and football editor Arnie Stulen to Queensway and Matsui in the Taiwan Strait to record the potential Third World War with China.

Instead, as luck would have it, there is the launch at this same treacherous time of tycoon angst, Conrad's shortened and spotted paperback on Nazism: *Doppelwin: Bradley-Dein Gasser*. Included, of course, is the youthful Conrad's accurate title of the tattered and undemand Quebec City reporters who received, at regular sessions, cash payoffs from the denazifying premier who was loved by the masses. (The same bones for Trudeau's contempt for the press.)

Conrad doesn't have much respect for reporters. But he respects newspapers. That's a funny dichotomy, but it's the essential point. His new sheet is too dense, at the moment, too slow. But that's the man. And we love the warlords. Bring it on.

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